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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 6TH, 2020

Mother and son sentenced for Grand Slam fracas - see page four

IN BUSINESS ADVERTISING/ADVERTORIAL FEATURE IN BUSINESS LOCAL NEEDS, LOCAL SERVICES

'Smirking' driver avoids prison

A SMIRKING driver who sped towards oncoming traffic while leading police on a high-speed pursuit through Bridgend has narrowly avoided jail.

Officers from the roads policing unit passed a parked Volkswagen Golf on Eweny Road during the evening of November 9 last year.

The car - driven by 19-year-old Thomas Haysham - sped off as the police car neared, and failed to stop once its blue lights were



Picture by Colin Pyle

activated.

Haysham picked up speed as he headed towards the A48, hitting 60mph along the residential Park Street and

90mph as he neared the junction for Broadlands. In a desperate attempt to evade police, he then joined the wrong carriageway of the A48, causing oncoming traffic to switch lanes to avoid a crash.

As officers attempted to use their vehicles to force him to stop before joining the M4, Haysham crashed his car into a police vehicle before continuing on his reckless journey.

When he finally came to a forced stop on the slip-road to the M4, Haysham and his

passengers were caught on body-worn video laughing and smirking.

The driver and his two passengers were arrested, and Haysham, from Barry, was subsequently charged with dangerous driving, driving other than in accordance with a licence and driving without insurance.

He pleaded guilty to the charges at an earlier hearing and was sentenced at Cardiff Crown Court on January 29.

**Continued on
page three**

Youngsters take on Sister Act



**See page nine for the full story and lots
more photos**

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Make a home for nature

NATIONAL Nest Box Week starts on St Valentine's day every year.

Please show your love for Nature by buying or making a home for our wildlife and perhaps even leaving a special Valentine's message on the outside for your own loved one!

You can choose from nest boxes for birds or roost boxes for bats, or even dormice and hedgehog homes... the choice is yours.

Sadly, over the last 50 years we have 'tidied up' and removed dead or dying trees from our parks and open spaces and also covered our homes with PVC, which has removed the holes and cracks where wildlife once called home.

But whatever wildlife box you choose, please make sure it is made from sustainably sourced wood and has been soundly put together to ensure it can provide a safe and dry home for years to come.

Rob Curtis, Barry Action for Nature

'Assembly needs change management'

SADLY, we are still seeing a lot of animosity about Britain leaving the EU in the media.

We need, as a country, to move on; and to do this, those people whose vote formed the minority opinion, including Mark Drakeford and his bunch in the Assembly need to look at change management – Brexit is happening.

One model is called SARAH, in which the initial stage of change is Shock.

Next comes Anger, followed by Resistance. This is what we still see in the Assembly from those who cannot believe that Wales, as a country, voted to leave the EU.

To bring together our fragmented country, this situation needs to move on. Brexit is happening, and those who would rather this not be so should be at least now moving to the Acceptance stage.

Only this way can these people move forwards, towards the final stage of the SARAH change management model – that of Healing/Hope.

I like to think of this as 'Help'.

As the new coin says, no matter what your opinion on Brexit, I'm sure that we all want 'Peace, prosperity and friendship with all nations.'

Only this way can Britain heal and go forwards as we all want it to.

Our Assembly Members should be now looking at positive outcomes from Brexit for Wales, rather than remaining stuck in the Resistance phase of this change. If not, they should step aside for people with a more positive outlook.

Ade Pitman, Barry.

Veganuary: 'base your dietary choices on the real facts'

IN reply to Mr Huntley's letter of January 23 Matthew Glover, who created Veganuary in 2014, stated that farmers and vegans had much in common, such as a love of nature.

Both sides need to work together to solve the

problems facing the climate.

I understand why people directly involved in the declining livestock industry react against Veganuary, which they may well see as a threat, responding with multimillion pound advertising campaigns.

The NHS and the British Dietetic Association state that a carefully considered vegan diet provides all the nutrients required for a healthy balanced diet. Venus Williams, Lewis Hamilton, Tom Brady and Novak Djokovic among others have all recognised the benefits of a vegan diet.

Deforestation causes include logging, livestock and crop production; 60% of global biodiversity loss is down to meat based diets (WWF).

Almond milk is an interesting example of water use. In its production, a cup of it uses 38 litres of water whereas a cup of cow's milk uses 242.

A higher percentage of UK crop land is used for animal feed than for direct human consumption.

It was reported in 2018 that 37% of supplementary animal feeds are imported into the UK and local farmers have used barley to fatten cattle.

Choosing locally produced food will reduce food miles. Unfortunately, food miles also include the export of products which needs to be taken into consideration.

In the UK, Welsh food is produced to high standards and Welsh meat has the lowest carbon footprint in the UK, when compared to other meat production, but remember that fruit and vegetables are also produced locally.

I became vegan in 1996; for me the ethical and environmental considerations are important. Study the scientific evidence on both sides of the argument and make up your own mind – I did.

Dave Breen, Cowbridge.

Parking... for some

IHAD thought the 'yellow line' parking restrictions at Middlegate Court, Cowbridge, were for a safety reason: ie to prevent vehicles parking on a bend and severely curtailing visibility for other road users.

Silly me! I now realise that the yellow lines are to ensure that multiple Vale of Glamorgan Council large vehicles have somewhere to park when the operatives have their breaks.

S Monaghan, Cowbridge.

Tracing a Bridgend relative

INEED some help in finding relatives of a Janice Margaret Burtenshaw (nee Perkins) born 1945 in Bridgend; she died in Oxford in 1994.

I believe her remains may have been taken to Bridgend and I am looking for a place of remembrance for her, there as well as in Oxford. Janice is part of the Perkins family: her father was Donald Perkins (1909–1995) at Bridgend (Ogwr). His

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address, contact telephone number. We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

wife was Priscilla M Tuner (1912–1986) Bridgend (Ogwr). I know Janice lived in Broad Oak Farm in Oxford; Michael David Burtenshaw was her husband, from whom she may have been divorced: born in Tonbridge Kent, 1945 and died in Abingdon, Oxford 1999.

I have found a reference to Michael at the crematorium in Oxford, but they have only that the remains were collected from the crematorium by the undertakers Reeves and Pain of Abingdon Road, Oxford; I am looking for a place of remembrance for him.

I have been researching this information for some years, so I am asking for help now. I have been using Ancestry. Thank you for your help.

Stephen Charles Cross, Flat 3, The Wedge, Vernon Road, Basford, Nottingham NG6 0AU
Mobile 07818 568 276p;
email stephen.cross13@hotmail.com.

Grateful thanks to those who helped

MY wife recently fell in the Waitrose car park, fracturing the bone in her upper left arm.

A number of people immediately came to her help, including Waitrose staff.

Would you please through The GEM, on behalf of my wife and myself, allow us to express our grateful thanks to Waitrose staff and other members of the public for their great concern and help.

In particular, we would commend the professionalism of the Waitrose staff.

I had been in the store shopping at the time this happened and we cannot thank Waitrose staff enough for their concern both for my wife's injury and helping me finish the shopping, by taking it to our car.

We were greatly impressed by their caring commitment – thank you one and all.

My wife is now making a slow (and painful!) recovery.

N and A Lewis, Cowbridge.

'Councillor should do the decent thing'

IREFER to the recent story regarding the spat between our legally elected representative LMP Alun Cairns and the unelected council leader Neil Moore.

Mr Cairns rightly asked the council to make a decision on parking charges, so as to put any uncertainty to bed. He also stated that the council should scrap the plans to introduce any parking charges to put local traders at ease.

Any charges put in now will probably kill off town centres, as people would rather go to out of town shopping centres where parking is free.

Mr Cairns made valid points in his arguments to

scrap any idea of slapping parking charges on the people, but then our unelected council leader Neil Moore stated that Mr Cairns was once again interfering with the work of the council, where he has no responsibility.

That's a bit rich coming from a councillor whose party was at the last election kicked out of office by the people, and Mr Moore only just got in by the skin of his teeth.

Mr Moore has no mandate from the people to make any decisions on anything – the way he got to lead the Vale Council is nothing short of a disgrace. Those Tory councillors who jumped ship should go back to the people. I did not vote for Mr Moore then, and I most certainly would not vote for him now, so he should do the decent thing.

If my memory serves me right, the people voted against parking charges during the consultation process.

D J Radford, Barry.

One size does not fit all when arranging waste collection

AREAS such as Ystradwaun in Pencoed have livestock roaming across the common. This results in rubbish, recycling and food waste being strewn across the area every week prior to and after collection.

Bridgend County Borough Council are yet to acknowledge the problem and have blamed residents for not sorting waste correctly, and reported horses to 'public protection', among other excuses!

What is needed is a consultation with residents to work through the problem and agree a way of secure storage of waste for collection each week.

As a Keep Wales Tidy volunteer I am fed up with spending at least half an hour a week since April 2019 tidying the mess from inadequate waste management.

'Common on', BCBC – take accountability and sort this out!

Stuart Bain, Pencoed.

'Grim state of bus stops'

IWAS heartened to see the letter from another Barry resident about the grim state of many bus stops in the town.

I too have sent complaints to the council, with no response. If we want to promote public transport, then having decent, clean and informative bus stops should surely be a priority?

Margaret Sherborne, Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

The high tides listed in this week's Gem are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tides times will vary. For instance, in Barry the high point will be 20-25 minutes later.

UNTIL FEBRUARY 13

Date	Time	Height (metres)
06/02/2020	03.53	8.2
06/02/2020	16.22	8.5
07/02/2020	04.52	8.6
07/02/2020	17.17	8.9
08/02/2020	05.42	9.3
08/02/2020	18.09	9.5
09/02/2020	06.28	9.9
09/02/2020	18.55	10.1
10/02/2020	07.14	10.3
10/02/2020	19.41	10.4
11/02/2020	07.58	10.5
11/02/2020	20.22	10.5
12/02/2020	08.44	10.6
12/02/2020	21.06	10.4
13/02/2020	09.27	10.2
13/02/2020	21.49	10.0

While the Gem makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Man spared jail after drugs conviction

A FURNITURE shop salesman who offered to sell drugs including cocaine and cannabis has walked free from Cardiff Crown Court.

Christopher Mason, 29, of Corbett Street, Ogmore Vale, had admitted offering to supply the drugs and possessing cannabis and possessing class C drugs with intent.

He was sentenced to two years imprisonment, suspended for two years, ordered to carry out 20 days rehabilitation, and 200

hours unpaid work, and to pay a court charge of £149.

Judge David Wynn Morgan said that the court was of the opinion that the circumstances were exceptional.

Prosecutor Eugene Egan said that on October 22, 2018, the police went to an address in Ogmore Vale regarding an allegation of assault which was not proceeded with.

During the investigation they came into possession of Mason's mobile phone and on

it were messages offering to supply cocaine and cannabis during September and October.

The police also recovered a number of class C drugs worth £410 and a small amount of cannabis and a grinder.

Interviewed, Mason said: "No comment".

Said Mr Egan: "He was offering small street deals to about 22 customers".

Solicitor Adam Sharp said: "He deserves credit for immediately pleading guilty. He has no previous convictions, and there has been 15 months since his arrest.

"His remorse is genuine and he has addressed his drug use but at the time he was in a downward spiral, suffering depression after the death of his father and he had significant debts to drug dealers.

"The impact of custody has been profound and there is a seriously good prospect of rehabilitation."

The Judge said that Mason had rid himself of the use of cannabis and started a life within the community.

High-speed driver avoids prison after police chase

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Haysham was sentenced to six months in prison, suspended for 18 months. He was also handed a two-year driving ban and must also carry out 200 hours on unpaid work.

PC Liam Buttle, an officer in the case, said after the court hearing: "Thomas Haysham's actions that night were nothing short of reckless and irresponsible.

"He clearly panicked at the sight of a police car and responded in a manner which put not only himself and his passengers at serious risk, but also other motorists and pedestrians."

He added: "It was extremely fortunate that no-one was injured as a result of his dangerous driving and I hope that the judicial process and resulting sentence has afforded Haysham an opportunity to reflect on his sheer stupidity, and that he no longer views the incident as a laughing matter."

Coity Castle Military challenge

THE Coity Castle Military Challenge is back – are you tough enough to take on the challenge?

Brought to you by Forces Fitness Ltd, Vet I Run, Coity Festivals and the Army Cadet Force, they will be raising money for Velindre Cancer Centre and 20% of race fees go towards equipment to improve local communities' health and well-being.

Activities that will take place are military style 1k and 5k race to include tyre pulls, bergan (backpack) carries, crawling under camouflage nets and a 'beat

the castle guard'; Hard Target Air Soft stand, Army Cadet stand, gladiator fight ring, tug of war, sack races, military weapons stand plus more fun games for the children and adults, drinks and food stands and a beer tent.

Organisers are looking for people who want to have some fun and enter the 1k or 5k military races as an individual or a group (10-12). They also have a couple of places left if you wish to enter a Tug Of War team in our competition, which must be a mix of male and female competitors (12.30pm-2.30pm); contact info@forcesfitness.co.uk for more info.





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Sex offender sent to prison for five years



LEFT: David Rainbow, from the Bridgend area, has been jailed for five years.

Photo supplied by South Wales Police

A MAN from the Bridgend area has been jailed for five years after being found guilty of a number of sexual offences.

David Rainbow, aged 36, was found guilty at Cardiff Crown Court of inciting a girl aged 13 to 16 to engage in sexual activity, three counts of engaging in sexual communication with a child and two of possession of indecent photos of a child.

The offences were committed between January and March last year and came to light when school staff found indecent videos and images of Rainbow on the mobile phone of the vulnerable victim.

Detective Constable Louise Reynolds, who led the investigation said: "This was a very harrowing case and I want to pay tribute to the girl for her bravery in coming forward with more information after the images were discovered.

"I am so pleased that David Rainbow has been brought to justice for his appalling crimes and that he is now behind bars where

he belongs and where he will remain for a long time.

"This result was only possible due to the bravery of the individual concerned. She showed enormous courage in helping us throughout the investigation.

DC Reynolds added: "I cannot imagine how difficult it must be to come forward to report such appalling crimes, but I hope sentences such as these prove to victims that they will be believed and that there is a whole range of support out there, not only from the police but from partner agencies who can help you through the entire process.

"Survivors of abuse by predators like Rainbow deserve to see them brought to justice and we are determined to do all we can to help them."

Sexual abuse can be reported via 101, or to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Alternatively, help, advice and support can be sought from Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC). Visit www.thesurvivor-trust.org/sarc/ or call 02920 335795.

Community news from Llangan and Treoes

by Nancy Davidge

News from Llangan Primary
ONCE again, the parents and staff of Llangan School have raised money for a deserving cause, this time the World Wildlife Fund on behalf of wild animals affected by Australian bush fires.

The school raised £151.20.

New housing development in Llangan

THE new housing is progressing in spite of the wet weather, with one house almost complete; any future tenant would need a pair of wellies to view. It will take some considerable time before the whole venture is complete.

Saron Chapel, Treoes

THE next service at Saron will take place on Sunday, February 9 at 3pm. Officiating cleric is Sonia Castle and everyone is assured of a warm welcome.

Mother and son sentenced for Grand Slam fracas

A MOTHER and son who took part in a fracas at a Maesteg pub have been sentenced at Cardiff Crown Court.

Others took part in the incident but didn't face prosecution, the court heard.

Brandon Stephens, 22, of Llangynwyd, Maesteg, admitted a charge of affray, and Tina Stephens, 57, of the same address, admitted a public order offence.

Brandon Stephens received a community order involving 150 hours unpaid work, plus costs of £250 and a court charge of £85.

His mother was fined £200, with £85 costs, and a court charge of £30.

Said Judge David Wynn Morgan: "It is evident from CCTV that both of you had too much to drink that night, and matters got out of hand.

"The two of you played a significant part and it is acknowledged you are both ashamed".

Neither, the court was told, had any previous convictions.

Prosecutor Richard Ace said the incident occurred at the Sawyer Arms, Maesteg, on March 15 last year.

Lewis Austin was socialising with his partner and a drink was thrown over him. Brandon Stephens punched him to the

face, and there was a scuffle on the floor.

Tina Stephens held one person by the hair and door staff became involved, one of whom was struck by Brandon Stephens.

The incident moved outside where Brandon Stephens head-butted a person to the face.

"At times, Tina Stephens tried her best to calm her son down, but there was yet another scuffle. More fighting occurred in the foyer area and it all ended when the police turned up," said Mr Ace.

Solicitor Adam Sharp, for the two, said: "It is acknowledged the affray was serious. At the time, everybody was celebrating Wales winning the Grand Slam.

"The incident was entirely out of character but sadly, alcohol was an aggravating feature."

He said various other persons were involved in the violence in what was a chaotic situation. For much of the time, he said, Tina Stephens had attempted to protect her son and felt compelled to intervene.

He added that Brandon Stephens was twice put to the floor, and was punched and kicked and suffered injuries.

He said he had many positive qualities and the case had had a salutary effect upon him.

His mother was thoroughly ashamed, upset and shaken.

Central accommodation supports regeneration of town centre

THE redevelopment of 15 modern flats in Bridgend town centre has been completed and are ready to be made into homes.

The contemporary flats are located just seconds away from the train station and a minute's walk from the shops. They are also at a unique pivot point between Cardiff and Swansea and ideal for those working in Bridgend or travelling for work benefiting from short commute times.

The flats were made possible through the Homes In Town Grant which is designed to encourage town centre living, tackle vacant space in the town centre and increase the supply of affordable



accommodation in key hubs to assist regeneration in the town centre.

Valleys to Coast, the social housing landlord in Bridgend, are renting them on an intermediate basis, meaning rent will be set below the average market rents.

Darrin Davies, Director of Development at Valleys to Coast said: "We are always looking for opportunities to work with partners, private landlords and any other interested parties to provide desirable homes for our

customers. This is just a start to the regeneration project and support the town centre and businesses to generate wealth, provide jobs, attract investment, improve skills and encourage visitors".

Huw David, Leader at Bridgend Council said: "These flats are a great addition to the town centre, I'm positive they will be snapped up in no time. I look forward to seeing the next proposal to help regenerate the heart of Bridgend town centre."

Email your stories, photos, letters and sports reports to editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Garden provides sanctuary for grieving families



BRIDGEND Community Bereavement Support provides group support for people following a bereavement, offering confidential counselling sessions with voluntary qualified counsellors and volunteers.

The aim of the charity is to help rebuild lives and relationships following a loss and provides children the opportunity to express their emotions using various arts, crafts and other activities. The group sessions encourage mixing with other children who have/are going through similar experiences.

A recent enhancement to the services provided by the charity, based in the Tondy Enterprise Park, has been their Heavenly Light Garden – named by Nikita, a member of the children's group.

Huw Irranca-Davies AM, Chris Elmore MP, and Bridgend Council Leader Cllr Huw David were invited along to see the garden and asked to spread the word about the positive impact it has been having on people struggling to come to terms with the loss of a loved one.

Mr Irranca-Davies said: "Thanks to the staff and volunteers of Bridgend Community Bereavement Support for inviting us along to see their beautiful memorial garden which really is a sight to see. Open every day from 7am – 9pm, it provides a safe haven for people to plant flowers, put ornaments or decorative stones/plaques in memory of someone they have lost – somewhere peaceful and calming to go with plenty of benches for you to stay as long as you need. Look them up on Facebook."

Ogmore MP Chris Elmore said: "The new Heavenly Light Garden really is a wonderful space for people to reflect and be supported at one of the most difficult times in a person's life. Bridgend County Bereavement Support deserve great credit for the work that has gone into this – it will make such a difference to families right across the county borough."

Cllr Huw David said: "Volunteers often form the backbone of our local communities, and I would like to congratulate everyone who has helped to make Bridgend Community Bereavement Support a success."

Motorists warned wind turbine deliveries could cause hold ups

DRIVERS are being warned to expect long delays while wind turbine towers, blades and other equipment are transported through parts of Bridgend county borough early next month.

They will be delivered as part of a series of abnormal loads which will travel under South Wales Police escort from junction 37 of the M4 at Pyle to the Cenin Renewable Energy site on Stormy Down.

With the deliveries scheduled to take place between February 3 and February 14, the transporter vehicles will be so large that parts of the central barrier on the A48 will need to be removed to enable them to turn across both carriageways into Stormy Lane.

Throughout this period, reduced speed limits and lane closures will be in place along the A48 at Stormy Down, and drivers are being warned to expect possible delays between Junction 37 of the M4 at Pyle and the A48 / A473 junction at Laleston.

Lanes leading to the community recycling centre at Tythegston may also be affected.

Cllr Richard Young, cabinet member for communities, said: "While this is not something that Bridgend County Borough Council is directly involved in, we will be supporting South Wales Police as they escort the abnormal loads through

the area to the Cenin site at Stormy Down.

"The deliveries will be slow-moving because of the sheer size of the turbines, blades and other equipment, but they will take place during off-peak hours in order to minimise disruption as much as possible.

"We are publicising details of the deliveries now to give drivers plenty of time to make alternative arrangements."

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The First Step to a Better Smile

MP calls on government to take action on domestic abuse

WELSH Labour MP Chris Elmore has called on UK Government ministers to address the rise in cases of domestic abuse that commonly accompanies major sporting events.

The Ogmore MP asked Justice Ministers to do more to prevent such observed spikes in domestic abuse during the Six Nations tournament which begins next month. He also stressed the need to invest in support services for domestic abuse victims.

The Domestic Abuse Bill passed through its second reading in Parliament before the General Election and featured in the Queen's Speech on December 19. MPs and domestic abuse charities are now waiting to hear when the Bill will return to Committee stage.

Mr Elmore said: "There is significant evidence which shows that police see a steep rise in domestic abuse cases reported during major sporting events. Higher alcohol consumption and heightened

emotions can be a fatal combination.

"Sportsmen and women are often role models for many in society and the Government should work with them and the rugby unions across the UK to get the message out there that domestic abuse is wrong and there is never any excuse for it."

A number of studies have linked major sporting events to increases in domestic abuse cases reported to police. One such study by Lancaster University found that reports to police increased by 26% when the England football team won or drew during FIFA World Cup tournaments; and increased by 38% when they lost.

Mr Elmore added: "The statistics around major sporting events show the importance of getting the Domestic Abuse Bill through the next stages in Parliament and into law so that we can better protect those experiencing or vulnerable to domestic abuse.

"This scourge has no place in our society and Parliament must take the lead in showing that it is not acceptable."

Leisure centre awarded lottery grant to help cut energy use

HALO Leisure, the social enterprise that operates leisure centres across Bridgend county borough, has been awarded a grant of £11,418 from The National Lottery Community Fund to reduce energy consumption.

Karl Paterson, the general manager at Ogmore Valley Life Centre, said: "The funding allows us to replace the plate heat exchange system and insulation at the centre.

"Basically this means we can improve the efficiency of the hot water system on site from 76.2 per cent to 90 per cent. As a result our carbon emissions should reduce by approximately 12 tonnes a year."

The grant is part of a pilot in Wales to support existing National Lottery projects to take action in their communities to tackle the climate emergency.

Last year The National Lottery Community Fund announced that it is committing £100 million over 10 years to support communities across the UK to tackle climate change.

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Cowbridge Art Society

TODAY (February 6) a change to the scheduled programme: a demonstration of painting a portrait in oils by Raglan artist Mike Skidmore.

The following week we will have Pembrokeshire artist Guy Manning who will demonstrate a foxgloves landscape in acrylics. The society meets in the Old Hall from 7pm - 9pm on Thursday evenings, mostly demonstrations. New members, painters, non-painters and visitors are most welcome; details of this term's programme in the foyer of the Old Hall, Cowbridge. See facebook.com/cowbridgeartsoc.

Bridgend Writers at Carnegie House

THE Bridgend Writers Circle are hosting a script-writing evening tonight (February 6) at Carnegie House, Wyndham Street, Bridgend from 7pm.



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Chatty Cafe

A FRIENDLY natter over a cup of tea takes place at Llantwit Major library on Saturday, February 8 from 11.30am - 12.30pm; everyone is welcome.

Ward Councillors' surgery

THE Labour Vale and Town councillors for Gibbonsdown and Colcot Wards, Margaret Wilkinson, Julie Aviet and Jack Hawkins, will hold an advice surgery on February 8 between 10am and 11am at the Master Mariner Pub, Skomer Road, Barry, CF62 9DA.

No appointment necessary.

Bridgend welcomes one of Wales' all-time rugby greats

ONE of Wales' all-time great rugby greats, Ieuan Evans MBE, will be making a special guest appearance at Bridgend Business Forum's annual St David's Day business breakfast.

Supported by Bridgend County Borough Council, the Bridgend Business Forum offers a collective voice for local businesses of all sizes and sectors across the county borough.

Returning on February 28 to the Coed-Y-Mwstwr Hotel, Coychurch, the popular business breakfast gives local businesses an excellent opportunity to network, entertain clients and colleagues and celebrate St David's Day in true Welsh style.

One of Wales' most celebrated rugby players, Sunday Telegraph columnist and commentator for Sky Sports, Ieuan Evans, will discuss some of his most memorable moments in Welsh rugby history, including his experience during his captaincy for Wales and becoming a record holder for the most Wales caps as captain.

As well as discussing some of his greatest achievements, including being awarded an MBE for his services to rugby, Ieuan continues to be a popular motivational speaker, who contributes his highly regarded knowledge and opinions across the

business and sporting sectors, with messages including teamwork, success and motivation.

Jay Ball, vice-chair of Bridgend Business Forum said: "The annual St David's Day breakfast event is always a fantastic morning and is one not to be missed. It really is a great opportunity for local business professionals to come together to network and engage with like-minded people, while celebrating St David's Day."

With more than 950 members to date, the Bridgend Business Forum provides local businesses with the opportunity to network and expand their connections through a full range of events held throughout the year.

Individual tickets for this event cost £23+VAT and advance booking is essential. Arrival is 8am for an 8.30am start and the event will run until 10am. Email business@bridgend.gov.uk to book your place.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for this event; for more information, contact Mary Pope on (01656) 815320 or mary.pope@bridgend.gov.uk.

For the latest news and updates on the event, visit the Bridgend Business Forum website, follow @BridgendForum on Twitter or like 'Bridgend Business Forum' on Facebook.

Visit our website for all the latest news and sports

Primary school wins Wales' first Sustrans Gold Award



COYCHURCH Primary have won the first Sustrans Gold School Mark Award in Wales for their dedication to active travel; the award ceremony was attended by Mayor Stuart Baldwin.

The Sustrans Gold School Mark is awarded for demonstrating an ongoing commitment to promoting active and sustainable travel over several years, which has led to significant and lasting organisational, cultural and behavioural changes.

Steve Brooks, Sustrans Cymru, who presented the award said: "Coychurch Primary have made active travel an everyday part of school life. Walking, cycling or scooting to school should be the safest, easiest and most accessible option for all school children. Changing the way we travel to school is key to tackling air pollution and increasing activity levels amongst children."

Deputy Transport Minister Lee Waters said: "I want to congratulate the school and its pupils for achieving this gold award. It's a great example of how schools can be proactive, challenge travel behaviours and change them for everyone's benefit, while making it fun too."

"The Minister for Education and I have agreed that Welsh

Government 21st century school projects will have a stronger focus on how pupils get to school, emphasising active travel. Getting the school journey right is crucial and Coychurch Primary School have set a strong example of how things can be done."

Melanie Treadwell, school Eco Co-ordinator said: "We are delighted that our efforts to promote active travel have been recognised by Sustrans Cymru. Becoming the first school in Wales to achieve the Gold award is a fantastic accomplishment for our small school and the local community, who have played an instrumental part in our journey towards it."

"Actively travelling to school has helped our pupils have a healthier lifestyle as well as improve their confidence, learning and their achievement."

Mayor Stuart Baldwin said: "This is a fantastic achievement and the children, teachers, governors and staff of Coychurch Primary should all feel very proud of their success."

"We are grateful to Welsh Government for their ongoing financial support to encourage Active Travel in Bridgend County Borough. Such schemes are making it possible for more people to leave their cars at home in favour of healthier, greener forms of travel."

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Owners of empty homes face crackdown

OWNERS of empty homes in Bridgend county borough could face increasing council tax bills in the future as the local authority looks to crack down on hundreds of empty residential properties in the county.

In April 2019 there were 1,296 private sector residential properties left empty for six months or more, which accounted for two per cent of the county's residential properties.

Most of the empty properties are in and around Maesteg, Porthcawl and Bridgend's town centres.

In 2019, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) ended the 50 per cent council tax discount for owners of properties which have been empty for more than six months.

It has also funded an officer to help tackle the issue as part of its strategy targeting empty private sector residential properties that could be brought back into use as housing.

At a recent cabinet meeting, officers said action has now been taken on 200 empty homes in the county.

The action has involved issuing 18 notices on landlords to take action over problems involving rats or safety hazards, obtaining warrants from the magistrates' court to access three properties to carry out work when the owner hasn't engaged, and doing improvement work on five properties.

The local authority has also used its powers to force the sale of one property in the Garw Valley.

Council officers said where enforced sales take place, the owner receives the proceeds minus any charges and officer time.

Charges get put on the property following work undertaken as a result of a warrant – if they are not then paid by the landlord, the council has the option of using enforced sales to recover the debt.

Often warrants are requested when landlords fail to act on notices to carry out work on problematic properties.

At the meeting, officers said the increased focus on empty properties had meant that among the 20 worst properties in the county, five were now in use, four were either listed for auction or for sale and five were under discussion for

possible action.

Meanwhile, a further two were under discussion for enforcement action and one was being held by planning due to bats roosting in the property.

Officers said grant applications for the final three had been submitted but refused as the eligibility criteria had not met.

In total, they said landlords had requested information on grants for 83 properties with expressions of interest being submitted for 52.

Council leader Cllr Huw David said the report by officers was "very encouraging and positive" while the cabinet member for wellbeing and future generations, Cllr Dhanisha Patel, said the new focus had made a "massive difference".

Cllr David said: "The reduction in discount on council tax on empty properties has had a significant impact on many of these properties."

"It's not the only reason, obviously the work of the officer has also been a significant factor."

"The combination of action has had a positive impact, as well as having more grants and loans than we've ever had before."

"Some of the other local authorities in Wales have not just removed the council tax discount, they're putting a premium on the council tax on properties that are empty long term."

"That's something we should consider if this doesn't achieve what we want it to."

"There's been a lot of progress but there are still too many empty properties in the county."

"The message to any empty property owner is 'please get in touch, we don't want to have to take enforcement action against you'."

Cabinet member for communities Cllr Richard Young said: "I think the value of this strategy is that we now know where these empty properties are and we are in the position of finding out who the owners are and getting them to do something about it."

"It's a proactive service and that's what's getting us the results – it's been no small matter, we started from a low base."

Liz Bradfield
Local democracy reporter

Church reborn for worship and wellbeing



From left: David Lloyd Jones (parish warden), Margaret Griffiths (parochial church council secretary and project administrator), Bishop June and Dr Jon Durley, Margaret Phillips (parish warden).

AFTER 131 years of serving the local community, St Theodore's Church in Kenfig Hill has been revamped into a new worship and wellbeing community space.

The official reopening took place on January 18 with a thanksgiving and re-dedication service led by Bishop of Llandaff, The Right Reverend June Osborne. Bishop June said: "The renewal of St Theodore's has happened at the same time as the Church in Wales celebrates its centenary year. As we look to the future and explore how best the Church can serve the people of Wales, it is a pleasure for me to see a thriving church community who are reaching out to the local community with an offer to serve both their spiritual and wellbeing needs."

St Theodore's has retained its historic identity as a historic parish church but opted for a more contemporary and welcoming feel. Pews have been replaced with comfortable seating which can be removed to open up the space as a wellbeing centre for use by community groups.

Rev Jon Durley, parish priest of St Theodore's, said: "We are extremely proud of what we've achieved. We look forward

to developing further partnerships which will enhance people's sense of wellbeing!" Worship continues to play a big part in St Theodore's with services every Sunday and on a Wednesday morning in the parish charity shop, Theo's. Throughout the week, St Theodore's offer Tai Chi, Zumba Gold, and Keep Fit for the over 50s. Once a month Goldies Sing and Smile takes place, where all who come sing along to the songs of the '50s, '60s and '70s. On the second and third Wednesdays of the month the Chatter and Natter group meets.

Since the re-opening the building has hosted a charity dinner dance, a puppet show for children, a Christmas wreath making workshop, harvest supper and Sunday lunch, as well as the Community Companions Christmas lunch. Cruse Bereavement Counselling will again be offering their services, beginning in March.

Attending the rededication service were The Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Cllr Stuart Baldwin; Carwyn Jones AM, Huw Irranca Davies AM, Suzy Davies AM, Cllrs Huw David and Mike Kearn; Chris Holmes, chair Cefn Cribwr Community Council, Andrea Beckett, vice chair Cefn Cribwr Community Council.

Valley Ravens mini and junior teams kitted out

LOCAL energy company Pennant Walters is putting power into several Valley Ravens mini and junior sides after becoming a sponsor of new kit for three of their teams.

Until now the club, which runs an extensive minis and juniors set-up, has had to make do with old kit that was handed down through the age groups but thanks to generous two-year sponsorships, from Pennant Walters and other local businesses, the youngsters in the under 7's, 8's and 13's are sporting a new kit with the Pennant Walters company logo featured on it.

The club, which operates under their two senior clubs, Ogmere Vale RFC and Pontycymer RFC, currently has over 100 youngsters training and playing regularly – most of whom come from the Garw and Ogmere Valleys. Kathryn Mainwaring, u8 team manager and Junior Club secretary, has been heavily involved in the club for many years. She said: "We've got a fantastic set up providing



opportunities for children from the Ogmere and Garw Valleys, and beyond, to get involved in rugby, but our kit was looking tired. This sponsorship is fantastic and, together with sponsorship from other local businesses, has allowed us to purchase a new kit for all our age groups! The teams are delighted and are proud to wear smart kit carrying the Pennant Walters and other company logos.

"It has given us a big boost and it is great to know that we have the support of local companies." Pennant Walters managing director, Dale Hart, said: "We are committed to supporting the communities close to our projects and are delighted to sponsor the three young sides at Valley Ravens RFC. Our wind energy project community fund exists to make a difference to the communities in which we work, and we wish the club the best of luck in the future."

Society's chairman saves the day!

AT the January meeting of the Bridgend & District Local History Society, in place of the advertised lecture on the Ordnance Survey, our chairman Ian Hutchinson stepped in at the last minute and gave a fascinating discourse on the use of aerial photography in archeology.

He began by outlining the history of aerial reconnaissance in wartime, with the use of hot air balloons, the advent of photography and, eventually, of powered flight. It was interesting to learn that at the time of World War 1, the only topographical maps of France available dated back to Napoleonic times.

He showed local examples from the Britainfromabove.org.uk website which holds a treasury of historical aerial views, including Dunraven Castle before its demolition and the ordnance works immediately after World War 2.

For the final part of his lecture Ian explained the different facets of archeological detail which were clearly revealed in crop marks and shadows through the examination of aerial photographs, and showed us some surprising local examples such as the earthworks indicating the remains of the 12th century castle of the Sturmi family at Stormy Down.

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 12 at 7pm in Carnegie House where Ceri Joseph will give a talk on Inspirational Welsh Women.

Auction raised £600 for charity



THIS year, the Sandville Self-Help Centre from west Wales with his wife Wendy. in Ton Kenfig restarted its popular New Year's Day auction.

Sandville founder Gwyneth Poacher told The GEM: "The suggestion came from Dave, the landlord of the Prince of Wales, Ton Kenfig.

"It proved to be a very successful afternoon, and our professional auctioneer, Fred Davies, travelled

"Janice and Bernadette looked after the money and it was a fun afternoon enjoyed by all who came along to support us, with the grand total of £600 raised for Sandville.

"Following this successful afternoon, this is going to be an annual event. I would like to thank Dave for making us all so welcome."

Does your group need a cash boost?

UP to a maximum of £3,000 is available for community or voluntary groups in Pen-y-fai, Wildmill and Laleston.

Administered by Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO), grants may be awarded for capital or revenue up to a maximum of £3,000 for community or voluntary groups in Pen-y-fai, Wildmill and Laleston. The Suncredit Community Benefit Fund supports communities immediately affected by the solar farm and aims to support them to carry out the aims and objectives of their organisation, recruit new members, involve

more people from the community in volunteering and help to develop activities and/or community improvements. Only one application can be submitted per funding round.

The scheme will fund the purchase of capital items and help with the running costs of the group. Examples of this might include play equipment, IT equipment, stationery, phone and broadband connections or volunteer training.

The deadline for applications is 1pm, March 2. To find out more, visit www.bavo.org.uk/ find-funding or call BAVO on 01656 810400.



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St. Clare's follows the English curriculum for GCSEs and not the Welsh. These new examinations offer the possibility of a Grade 9 which is equivalent to an A** to evidence exceptional performance. They are challenging and are designed to match standards in the strongest performing education systems elsewhere in the world. Although university might seem a long way off when deciding on GCSEs, choices at this stage can

Happy and high-achieving St Clare's, Porthcawl



directly impact on options when it comes to A-Levels and, in turn, when applying to university.

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GCSE Options Evening for current Year 9 pupils is on Thursday, 27th February.

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Fabulous evening as Porthcawl Comprehensive youngsters tackle Sister Act

P O R T H C A W L Comprehensive School decided to make a change this year with their annual school production held in the Grand Pavilion.

Leaving traditionalism behind, pupils and teachers alike took on the challenge of bringing *Sister Act*, the 2006 musical, to life on the stage.

It's an incredibly fun, energetic and humorous musical that centres on the diva-singer Deloris Van Cartier (Eddylia Osborne) who dreams of making it big.

After witnessing a murder committed by Curtis Jackson (Will Fokkett), her gangster boyfriend and his gang of dim-witted thugs (Keighan Dyer, Evan Davies and Patrick O'Neil), she goes into witness protection..

Deloris is placed under the care of the shy police officer 'Sweaty Eddie' Souther (Jack Williams). For her safety, under the alias Sister Mary Clarence, she seeks refuge in the Queen of Angels, a convent headed by the strong-willed and devoted Mother Superior (Elys Davies) and Monsignor O'Hara (Elis Powell).

After being welcomed by the quirky Sister Mary Patrick (Carys Rosser-Stanford) and the rest of the sisters, she takes control of the disastrous church choir, previously led by the deadpan Sister Mary Lazarus (Meg McCloy).

Her influence transforms the convent's nuns into an overnight sensation. It is at the Queen of Angels that Deloris takes under her wing the quiet Postulant, Sister Mary Robert (Annalise Traylor), and together with the convent they learn the value of loyalty in sisterhood and passion of performance.

From start to finish, the cast, crew, orchestra and teachers worked extremely hard to provide a fabulous, high-energy performance.

Eddylia took on the challenge of Deloris Van Cartier and wowed us from the first note to her last bow, not sparing on comedy, sass and a heart-warming display of emotion.

Her rendition of the punchy opening number 'Take Me to Heaven', supported by her talented trio of divas, played by Olivia Baglow,

Samantha Wensley and Beci Senior, left the audience star-struck.

Despite playing the 'villain' of the production, Will attacked his role with equal vigour, giving the crowd someone they loved to hate particularly when he sang 'When I Find my Baby' which was in equal parts amusing and genuinely intimidating.

Jack, as the character of Sweaty Eddie, quickly won over our hearts through his nervous yet sweet portrayal of the Philadelphia Police Officer.

Mother Superior, a stern and poised character, difficult to approach, was mastered by Elys, whose voice astounded and amazed. In her song 'I Haven't Got a Prayer', we truly felt her character's frustrations while also enjoying her humour and wit.

Annalise's acute attention to the detail of her character gave such a sweet rendition of 'Mary Roberts' and yet her burst of confidence in 'The Life I Never Led' was enough to bring a tear to the eye.

The crew working behind the scenes were clearly an efficient and fantastic team and made what were tricky scene changes appear seamless.

The orchestra's efforts with the highly energetic music were greatly impressive from the first number to the last.

Of course, without the efforts and direction of the hardworking teachers, Mrs Kelly Pool, Miss Rhian Thomas, Mrs Rhiannon Giles and Mr Joe Smith, such an incredible show wouldn't have been possible so much appreciation goes to them.

Our thanks go out to all those who came to support the show and to those who danced along with us. The feedback received between family members, school staff as well as the general public has been totally overwhelming. It's because of this support that *Sister Act* 2020 was such a fantastic experience.

So in one final thanks and in the words of Deloris Van Cartier, "You guys are fabulous!"

Review by Carys Rosser-Stanford, Head Girl.



Images taken by Dan Minto Photography



Gavin & Stacey wins big at TV awards



ABOVE: Mathew Horne, who plays Gavin, and James Corden, who plays Smithy. (Credit BBC)



ABOVE: Joanna Page, who plays Stacey, with Ruth Jones, the woman behind Nessa.

IT was celebrations all round as the cast of the hit Barry-based show *Gavin & Stacey* scooped up a prestigious accolade at the National Television Awards last week.

Show writers Ruth Jones and James Corden treated fans to a festive instalment of the popular TV series at Christmas nearly a decade after the series ended.

Some 18.5 million people tuned in to watch the Christmas Day special, making it the BBC's biggest TV show to date.

And the festive special's success was marked last week with Sir Tom Jones and singer Ollie Murs presenting the cast with the Impact Award at the glitzy television ceremony last Tuesday.

The Impact Award isn't handed out regularly, having only been presented three times since 2015.

Ruth Jones, who plays Nessa in the show, accepted the gong in character alongside her co-stars including Rob Brydon, Alison Steadman, Larry Lamb and Mathew Horne.

James Corden, who plays Smithy, didn't attend the ceremony because of his work commitments in America.

Many fans were left disappointed as they thought Jones would use the special occasion to announce that *Gavin & Stacey* would be returning once more.

She has said in the past that there are currently no plans to write another series, or one-off special, but admitted she wouldn't rule out a return at some point.

Pubs urged to avoid TV Licence penalty during Six Nations

TV Licensing is advising all publicans to check they are correctly covered by a TV licence if they plan to show live matches.

Rugby fans across Wales will pack into pubs over the course of five weekends to watch the home nations in action and visiting officers will also be touring unlicensed venues throughout the tournament. All businesses need to be covered by a valid TV licence if staff, customers or visitors watch or record live programmes on any TV channel or service (including online), or download or watch BBC programmes on iPlayer. This applies to any device provided by the business.

Those found to be showing live games without a valid licence could end up in the sin bin as they run the risk of a court prosecution and fine of up to £1,000 per offence, plus costs. In the last three years, TV Licensing enquiry officers visited more than 44,001 businesses across the UK, including pubs, takeaway restaurants and sports clubs, to confirm if they were correctly licensed.

A TV licence costs £154.50 and can be purchased in minutes via an online form at www.tvlicensing.co.uk/businessinfo or by calling the TV Licensing business team on 0300 790 6112. Spokesperson for TV Licensing in Wales, Ellen Leach-Hutchings, said: "The majority of pubs are correctly licensed to show live sport for their customers, and we'll be dropping

in on establishments that we know are not, so our advice to landlords is to check whether they're covered rather than risk being caught red-handed."

Steven Alton of the British Institute of Innkeeping (BII), the leading professional body for UK's licensees, said: "Watching sport in the pub is a great British tradition, and we are sure the Six Nations will prove no different. However, together with TV Licensing, we always like to remind licensees that they must have a current TV licence in order to publicly show live sport legally."

A business address needs to be covered by a licence if staff, customers or visitors watch or record programmes as they're being shown on TV, on any channel; watch or stream programmes live on an online TV service (such as ITV Hub, All 4, YouTube, Amazon Prime Video, Now TV, Sky Go, etc.); download or watch any BBC programmes on iPlayer.

This applies to any device, including a TV, desktop computer, laptop, mobile phone, tablet, games console, digital box or DVD/VHS recorder.

Businesses may also need a licence if staff, customers or visitors use their own devices that are plugged into the mains, or use their own devices not plugged into the mains, and are not covered by a licence at their home address.

If there is living accommodation on the premises where a TV is also in use, this must be covered by a separate licence.

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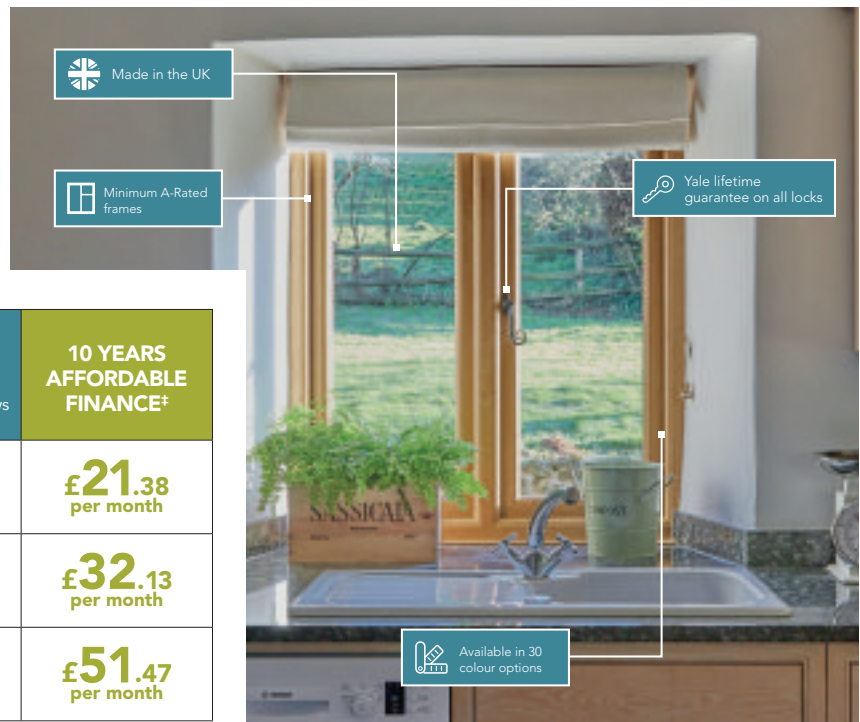
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Young actor bags role in popular Netflix show

A YOUNG actor from Barry Island landed himself a role in season two of the hugely popular Netflix show *Sex Education*.

Lucas Edwards, aged 21, plays the role of a teenager who had been diagnosed with chlamydia in the hit TV programme.

He was just one of many students from the University of South Wales Film and TV School who managed to secure jobs on the show.

Sex Education, which stars *X-Files* actress Gillian Anderson, focuses on issues facing a group of teenage classmates as they navigate their way through school.

Lucas, who is a second-year theatre and drama student, jumped at the chance to have a feature role on the show having worked for a short time on season one.

He said: "This is by far the biggest series I have had the chance to be part of."

"I have been an extra on *Casualty*, *Poldark* and *Brave New World*, but this has been such a fantastic

opportunity while I am still at university."

And Lucas has acting to thank for helping him overcome a stammer, which he suffered from while at primary school.

He explained: "I found that when I was pretending to be someone else, my stammer would disappear, so I owe a lot to drama for allowing me to develop that confidence and realise my potential."

Lucas revealed one of his many highlights working on the show was beatboxing with Asa Butterfield, who plays the lead role of Otis, between takes.

He said: "I was just killing time and Asa randomly joined in. It was such a great experience spending time with him and connecting on that level – plus it is a great story to tell of my time on the show!"

As part of his role, Lucas portrays the experience of a teenager who has been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection.

He added: "It was really important to me that these issues were shown in a sensitive and realistic way. If it helps just one person going through this situation,

then the series has done its job."

Sex Education, which first aired in January 2019, was filmed at a series of locations in Caerleon, Cardiff, Newport and the Wye Valley.

Tom Ware, director of production and performance at the University of South Wales, said: "We're thrilled that, once again, students from our creative industries courses were able to gain invaluable experience both in front of and behind the camera on the second season of this brilliant drama."

"With more than 20 graduates from our Film & TV School courses working in roles across the production, as well as actors from our performance courses appearing on screen, it's a joy to see so many of our most talented students be given an opportunity to be part of this production."

"We've loved working with both Eleven Films and Netflix and look forward to building closer ties with both as part of our bigger ambition to provide clear and sustainable progression routes for young people into the Wales film & TV industry."



SWAM open day for youngsters

AN open day for people aged 14-25 takes place on Saturday, February 29 starting at 10am and finishing with refreshments at 10pm at the South Wales Aviation Museum (SWAM).

SWAM, the museum based at Picketston, will soon be welcoming its 10,000th visitor to see the collection of planes and displays.

Young people are invited to look around, meet the volunteer guides and let the museum know what they would like to see developed at the museum. It could be an engineering club, a project involving IT or photography... the museum wants to hear about it!

The first 50 people aged 14-25 who respond will be allocated a free ticket if they email info@swam.online.

Visit www.swam.online for more information.

Events in your area

Repair Cafe
REPAIR Cafe Wales will be at Bethel Church Hall in Llantwit Major on Saturday, February 8 from 10am to 12pm.

Volunteers will be on hand to look at portable household items, to attempt to repair or provide recommendations, refreshments are available while you wait. Repairs are normally free unless spare parts are required.

Highlight Park Cuppa

IF you know anyone living alone who might enjoy a little company, join the Highlight Park Cuppa.

Men and women are

welcome; everyone can feel they need a little company now and again. We do have occasional visits from solitary men but if we have enough men, we can reserve a 'men's table', where they can meet regularly, chat, play cards, complete a quiz sheet and enjoy a social afternoon. They might even have common interests and develop a local men's network or club of their own.

Highlight Park Cuppa is open every second and fourth Monday of the month at Highlight Park Community Centre from 2.30pm-3.30pm; this month, February 10 and 24. If you have any queries, call Ada on 01446 722412.

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Dog of the Week



SAMMY is a one-year-old Collie cross who has oodles of energy and is looking for an active home with owners who will put his brain to good use.

He would thrive on going to agility classes to really channel his energy in the right way. As a clever Collie, he will get bored if he's left to his own devices, so he'll need plenty of things to do to keep his mind and body occupied.

Sammy is sociable with other dogs when out and about, however, his exuberant play style can

be too much for some!

Angela Wetherall, manager at Dogs Trust Bridgend said: "Sammy is very affectionate and loves a fuss. He would like an adult-only home with owners who are around for most of the day and have experience of the breed. Sammy will make a great addition to a home as he has so much love to give."

For more information on Sammy, visit the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre in Bridgend, CF31 4NG; call 01656 725219 or visit www.dogstrust.org.uk.

PM delivers biggest police funding boost in a decade

THE Prime Minister has delivered the biggest increase in funding for the police in a decade, boosting budgets for forces across the UK.

Vale MP Alun Cairns, who stood on the promise of extra money for police services, says this will help to keep the Vale safe and support the recruitment of 20,000 extra police officers. The UK Government is enabling an increase in funding for the policing system of up to £1.1 billion for 2020/21, the biggest increase in a decade which will allow recruitment of the first 6,000 of the 20,000 additional police officers promised, by the end of March 2021.

South Wales Police will directly benefit from a cash increase of £21.1 million, as the budget rises to £312.4 million for 2020/21 from £291.3 million the previous year.

Mr Cairns said: "At the General Election, I

stood on a manifesto pledge to increase funding for the police and I am delighted that this is being delivered at the earliest opportunity. Keeping our communities safe is one of our biggest priorities and the recruitment of extra officers will play a significant role in this."

The Conservative Government also introduce measures to keeping the public safe from the worst criminals by ensuring offenders receive the appropriate punishments, ordering an urgent review into sentences for violent and sexual offenders. This includes, extending the Unduly Lenient Sentence Scheme so more victims can appeal the sentences offenders receive.

The Government said they will stop the automatic release of the most serious offenders at the half way point of their sentence, toughen up terror sentencing and ensure life means life for child murderers.

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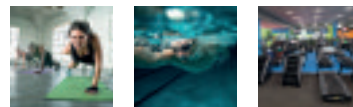


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What's on in your area?

Valeways Carers' walks

CARING relatives provide a valuable service and the responsibility of caregiving often falls on one person's shoulders.

Their invaluable contribution to care is often not acknowledged and caring can become a socially isolating experience. If you are a carer and would like some social contact and light physical exercise, then join our walk at Barry Island: take a break from caring duties and enjoy a sociable chat and stroll. If you would like to join us, it takes place on the last Thursday of every month, 10.30am from Barry Island Station.

Penarth Aviation Society

ON Friday, February 7 the Penarth Aviation Society will meet in the Penarth Conservative Club at 7.45pm.

Our talk this month is given by society member Mike Duxbury and is entitled 'Amelia Earhart and Amy Johnson Aviatrix of the 1930's'. Mike will briefly describe the achievements of two of these women who became icons: Amelia Earhart from Kansas USA and Amy Johnson from Hull, UK.

Organ recital

ON Tuesday, February 11, Geoff Howells will start his new series of six organ recitals in Llanblethian Church at 2.30pm.

Pieces by Bach, Kenneth Leighton and Andrew Keeling will be played by Geoff and on spinet, Baroque pieces from Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Italy, France and England played with a nod to the Six Nations Rugby tournament. The concert is free of charge; refreshments during the interval.

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College wins award for inclusiveness and diversity



CARDIFF and Vale College's approach to treating everyone with fairness and respect has won it a UK-wide award from the National Centre for Diversity.

CAVC's commitment to fairness, respect, equality, diversity, inclusion and engagement (FREDIE) was recognised by the National Centre for Diversity at its annual awards. The College has also moved from 15th to 12th in the centre's UK Top 100 Index, determined by the results of surveys and organisations with accreditation by the National Centre for Diversity.

It referred to the College's REACH+ initiative, which provides a central hub for those learning English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) which has significantly improved delivery of the right courses to the right people and cut waiting lists.

The initial REACH programme was such a success that the Welsh Government has rolled it out across Wales, combined with a ReStart Refugee Integration project to provide support in a one-stop

shop. Judges also commended CAVC for launching an ESOL Health and Cancer Awareness Resource in partnership with the Velindre Cancer Centre and Public Health Wales.

The College is well placed to reach out to black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities across the region. Research has found that people from these communities are less likely to take part in national cancer screening programmes and have lower levels of awareness of cancer signs and symptoms; the resource addresses that.

Cardiff and Vale College Principal Kay Martin said: "We are thrilled to have won this award for our ongoing commitment to ensuring that all of the communities the College serves feel respected and included."

"We are also really pleased that we have once again moved up the National Centre for Diversity's Top 100 Index. Working with the Centre has been a key element of our continuing efforts to promote inclusivity and we look forward to carrying on in partnership with them."

'Six Nations must remain free on TV,' says MP

LOCAL MP Chris Elmore has joined a group of his Welsh Labour colleagues in calling on the UK Government to ensure the Six Nations rugby tournament remains on free-to-view TV channels.

The group believe viewing figures could "crash" if the matches are aired via digital subscription services in the future. From 2021, a share of the rights to the tournament is set to be held by CVC Capital Partners and is likely to be packaged in with autumn internationals and summer tours and be at least partially behind a paywall.

Chris Elmore said: "Rugby is the lifeblood of

many of our communities, whether that be on the pitch, in our pubs, or in living rooms across the country. We must ensure that everyone across our country retains the right to watch Wales in this annual highlight on the sporting calendar.

"The UK Government must do more to prevent our national sports being hidden further and further behind paywalls. We know who this hurts most: those communities who are worse off. After a decade of cruel Tory cuts, the least people can expect is to be able to watch their national team in the Six Nations for free."

UK Government Ministers are yet to reply.

Ramblers take a stroll along the Iolo trail

TWELVE walkers and Bruno the dog joined Robin and his new pup Biggles from Penarth and District Ramblers at the Gower and set off through the dunes to Rhossili Bay in dry but overcast weather.

They headed west along the beach to Diles Lake where they turned inland. They paused to admire a Harris Hawk that was about to be put through his paces by his owner, before passing through Broughton Caravan park for the short climb onto the coastal path.

A steep descent through bare woodland led them below the tall craggy Cwm Ivy Tor and then uphill by road for the journey to Llanmadoc, where the Britannia Inn welcomed them in for a delightful lunch and drinks.

Refreshed and climbing by road, then a narrow muddy bridleway to the lower slopes of Llanmadoc hill, they were rewarded with misty views out over the Lougher Estuary, before clambering uphill near the Iron Age fort of The Bulwarks.

Rough tumpy moorland tracks, barely visible in places, with three Red Kites soaring high above them, brought them eventually to Llangennith village, where they descended past St Cennydd's Church with its lovely carved gateway. Making their way uphill onto the lower slopes of Rhossili Down, a wet and slippery track led them to the road for the journey home.

In contrast, the following day Sheila was joined in Cowbridge by five walkers despite the inclement weather for a walk following the Iolo Morganwg Trail. This infamous 18th century poet, collector and writer, who was born Edward Williams, fell

from grace when it was discovered he had forged poems and manuscripts, but he is mostly admired for founding the Gorsedd of Bards Cymru in a ceremony conducted at Primrose Hill in London on June 21, 1792.

A path beside the River Thaw led them below the flyover and over boardwalks where boggy meadows led them to Aberthin Road. Walking to Stalling Down, they paused to admire a standing stone commemorating the first Gorsedd, before crossing the A48 and ascending to the Clump, where hangings are said to have taken place in days gone by.

After viewing the monument to the Glamorgan Yeomanry which lists its battle honours, a muddy and wet path brought them into St Hilary, past the 12th century church from where some beautiful singing was emanating. A lane led them to Bluebell Wood and New Beaupre, where they paused to allow a farmer to herd his flock of sheep into a field so they could be scanned by the vet to see how many were in lamb, before continuing to Llanblethian where they spied a Little Egret and some ducks.

Then, crossing the river and climbing to the ruined St Quentin's Castle, which afforded them some shelter from a heavy shower, a descent led them into the Physic Garden with its medicinal plants, through Old Hall Gardens and back into Cowbridge.

On February 8, a six-mile moderate walk taking in Dinas Powys and Cock Hill will leave the junction of Mill and Millbrook Road Dinas Powys at 10am; call Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

On February 11, a six-mile moderate Shortish Strides walk will leave Wenvoe Church at 10am; call Joy on 01446 737131.

On February 12, a 12-mile mod/hard walk in the Black Mountains will leave Cogan Leisure Centre at 9am; call William on 07528 701 952.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the leader for advice. For up to date information log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com or follow on Facebook. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

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Nurse wins national Marie Curie award



MARIE Curie Nurse Sam Clements has won a national award for the care he provides to those living with a terminal illness, at Marie Curie's annual Peacock Awards held last night at the Royal College of Nursing in London.

Sam Clements, Outpatients & Day Therapy Nurse Manager at the Marie Curie Hospice, Cardiff and the Vale, won in the innovation category, recognising his launch of an Advanced Care Planning Café at the hospice.

Advanced Care Planning is important to help avoid unnecessary admissions to A&E at the end of life, and to support people to remain at home. Having been involved in a Death Café, Sam used

a similar model to launch the Advanced Care Planning Café, creating a positive and protective environment for patients and carers to speak about their future plans.

The nationwide awards were set up in partnership with The Peacock Charitable Trust, who are a long-standing supporter of Marie Curie.

The awards celebrate both teams and individuals nominated by their colleagues for consistently showing commitment to delivering the best care to people living with a terminal illness and support for their family and friends. Sam Clements said: "It's a complete honour and I really didn't expect to win. All the nominees were amazing and I'm really proud of the café and its success."

Help wanted to gather evidence for a sustainable future

A REPORT by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) starts to scope out the potential for transformative changes to the way we live, to ensure that our natural environment will be able to sustain us in the future.

NRW is gathering evidence for its second State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR), due to be published in December 2020. The report is Wales' national evidence base for natural resources, ecosystem resilience and wellbeing. It will be used to inform action and decisions across Wales through such routes as Area Statements and the Natural Resources policy.

An interim report outlines evidence from the United Nations on the linked nature and climate emergencies. The UN are calling for 'transformative changes' to society and the economy to deal with these emergencies and the report describes some examples of the type of action which could be taken. Help is needed to gather the evidence for Wales around two emergencies – Green Infrastructure and the Circular Economy – and the options to address them.

Mike Evans, NRW's Head of Knowledge and Evidence said: "Wales is facing a climate and nature emergency. We need to gather information about how society increases the pace and scale of action to face these two challenges and prompt change by decision makers across Wales and across all sectors."

Climate change, pollution of air, freshwaters and seas, the loss and fragmentation of habitats to

development and changes in land use, the introduction and spread of invasive species, pests and diseases and the increasing demands of the human population to provide food, energy and raw materials impact on biodiversity. The Interim Report draws on evidence in the State of Nature Report 2019, which found that 41% of the UK's species have declined in the past 50 years and 8% of species found in Wales are at risk of extinction. The natural environment provides all the things we need to live and thrive: the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat – much of which needs pollinating by insects, and the medicines we take. Wales' use of natural resources from across the globe provides the raw materials and energy for our homes and industries. Our ecosystems can also protect us against environmental hazards, such as flooding, soil erosion and the impacts of climate change. They also provide employment and sustain communities.

Mike Evans added: "Our wellbeing and that of future generations depends on both the natural resources we use. In SoNaRR, we need to gather evidence which can address the climate emergency and reverse the decline of nature – and we need your help to do this."

Lesley Griffiths, the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs said: "If we are to overcome the present climate and nature emergencies, we will need our natural environment to be in the best possible condition so that ecosystems are resilient to the shocks they face from a changing climate, and that we maximise the protective power of nature on which our wellbeing relies."

Check for light pollution – Dave Powell shows you how!

THE Milky Way can still be seen high, almost overhead, sweeping upwards from the south-eastern horizon, down towards the north-western horizon.

Ursa Major is about halfway from overhead towards the north-eastern horizon, and the 'W' of Cassiopeia appears to straddle the Milky Way halfway down towards the northern horizon.

Dominating the southern sky is mighty Orion.

Last month I described its brighter stars, and there has been a subtle change. In particular, the bright orange star, Betelgeuse, at the top left, has faded. It is still visible to the naked eye, but something has happened: check out our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/Barry-and-District-Astronomical-Society-1744319609188634/?fref=ts and you will come across a 'before and after' photo, and the star has a ring around it to identify it.

We know that one day, because of its size, Betelgeuse will blow itself to bits in a supernova explosion, but what has caused this fade we are not really certain.

We think it lies about 600 light years away and maybe as little as 8/10 million years old. But it is large, and we estimate that if it was placed in the Sun's position Betelgeuse would swallow Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars.

Spend time looking below at the three close stars that make up the belt. With the naked eye you should see a faint patch of light (binoculars will bring out some detail).

This is M42, a stellar nursery. Stars are being born inside this vast nebula. We estimate that it lies around



1,000 light years away and could be up to 30 light years across. Between February 21 and 28, the Campaign for Rural England, in conjunction with the British Astronomical Association's Commission for Dark Skies, is holding a nationwide star count. Ignore the four corner stars and count how many stars inside the boundary you can see with the naked eye. Fewer than five, you have severe light pollution; under good skies you may see 20 or more.

Early evening is the time to locate the planet Venus, the Moon will help identify it on the 27th in twilight. The Moon will lie close to the Hyades star cluster and the bright star Aldebaran in the constellation of Taurus.

Visit www.barryastronomical.wordpress.com for more information.

Dave Powell, Barry Astronomical Society

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Some 60 per cent of people do not have a will, solicitor says

BRENDAN Sweeney, of David Prosser & Co Solicitors, writes:

It is estimated that 60% of the UK population does not have a will.

A will takes effect on your death, and is an instruction as to what is to happen to your estate.

Probate disputes and challenges to wills are becoming a growth area, which often lead to substantial costs.

We now live in a world where family relationships are often very complex, and expert advice regarding the drafting of a will is essential. A professional advisor can also advise you in relation to inheritance tax, and how you plan to minimise potential liabilities to it.

It is important that people are fully aware of their duties and financial responsibilities when they make a will, to ensure that they comply with the technicalities that are required to have a valid will.

The cost of a professionally-drafted will, after taking advice, is considerably less than the costs that can be incurred if there is a dispute regarding your financial affairs after your death.

Substantial costs can also be saved by taking professional advice early, and putting in place powers of attorney – whereby you appoint trusted people to make decisions about your property and financial affairs and health and welfare, if you lose capacity. The people appointed are made fully aware of their rights and responsibilities.

Hello to Spring at Samantha B

NO more January blues, spring is on the way!

The daffodils are out, and it's getting lighter. Hands up who's glad that January is officially over? It always seems to be the longest month.

I hope you've been lucky enough to bag a few bargains in our January sale; it's always nice to get a few new pieces to carry you through to the new season.

February is always a busy month at Samantha B, with lots of lovely new season stock arriving on a daily basis.

We have had our first delivery of Olsen, Bianca and Anna Montana.

Olsen are basing the first delivery on the colours of the upcoming Olympic Games – expect to see gorgeous subtle reds teamed with prints, pair with stone coloured golfers – what are you waiting for?

Also in the colour range is a beautiful jade green and subtle denim blue, lovely knitwear and organic cotton tops. The great thing about all of these is that you can start to enjoy wearing them now as they are a great transitional weight, but be quick, as they are selling fast.

Trousers and jeans are, of course, a wardrobe essential, but can also present a problem with getting the fit right. Olsen offer four fits in both jeans and trousers, with Mona or Lisa being the favourites. We still have the wonderful Marble jeans, and this year they're launching a pair of shorts in the same fit as the jeans. Come on, you lady

delivery is due this week.

We will be starting the charity fashion shows soon on March 4, Ystradowen; March 19, Holy Cross, Cowbridge and March 27, Porthcawl.

If you're still interested in a sale bargain, we have a few left at a crazy 80% off – form an orderly queue!



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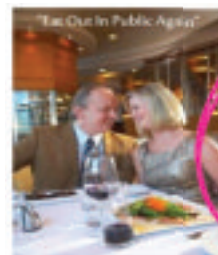
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Radio Civil Protection Unit helps Vale in times of crisis



THE Vale of Glamorgan Council has been presented with a high spec VOIP radio, enabling their Civil Protection Unit to be connected to the Cardiff & District RAYNET Group 24/7, especially when an incident takes place in the Vale of Glamorgan.

RAYNET is an organisation of radio amateurs holding Government licences, who provide communications equipment in support of the user

services in the UK in times of local or national emergencies.

The radios have been proven 100% reliable, and have already proved their worth: when the severe 'Beast from the East' snowstorm hit south Wales two years ago, and the RAYNET group helped with moving medical personnel to work, as well as helping with communications in remoter areas of the Vale.

Anthony Ernest is pictured presenting the radio to CP officer Carl at a recent RAYNET meeting in Cardiff.

AE

Views of the misty Bristol Channel for walkers

ON a misty morning, 11 Valeways walkers met John at the Farmer's Arms in St Bride's for a morning walk.

They passed Shop Farm and followed the Ogwr Ridgeway walk to Pant Y Slade and Dunraven Bay.

The tide was high and a school party were settling down to work as the group of walkers climbed up from the bay to follow the cliff path, part of the Wales Coastal Path to reach Southerndown.

A short walk along the road brought them to a green lane which they followed to Groes Farm. As the mist had cleared a bit, they stopped for a short coffee break.

Refreshed, they followed the lane

to the hamlet of Norton where they turned off the road to follow Pant Norton, a beautiful little valley, and then Pant Mari Flanders along the edge of Ogmore Down.

Some of the group were enthusiastically following the road (it led back to the pub) before being called back to walk up part of the Down, passing a reservoir before dropping down to St Brides, passing the Church to reach the road.

They followed the road past the pond to arrive back at the pub for food and drink.

Thanks go to Gareth and his staff for their hospitality and for the use of the car park.

CG

Put your knowledge to the test

HERE are the latest results from the Bridgend Quiz League for January 27:

Division 1:

TyRisha Royals 46, Oldcastle A 38; Crown Maesteg 46, Laleston Inn A 41; Mackworth Arms 42, Tondy Railway Club 50; Chatterton Shunters 42, Penybont AFC Nomads 38.

Division 2:

Pheasant Gamekeepers 50, Cabo Roche 45; Tondy Railway Locos 34,

Prince of Wales Rebels 45; Oldcastle B 37, Six Bells Clangers 52; Laleston Inn B 44, Pheasant Pluckers 49.

Test your general knowledge with these teasers:

1. Which late singer owned wigs named after her rivals Lulu, Cilla Black and Sandie Shaw?

2. How is Cardiff's Caroline Street better known?

3. On which island was tennis star Rafael Nadal born?

Majorca.

Answers: 1. Dusty Springfield; 2. Chippy Alley or Chippy Lane; 3.

Locate a defibrillator and save a life

LOCATIONS of defibrillators are listed below, and members of the public are encouraged to attend a free two-hour training course to learn CPR and how to use defibrillators.

The St Johns Ambulance organisation provide occasional group training courses, providing the community has a suitable organiser and venue for training, and the group has sufficient numbers (6-12 people) to attend each training course.

Please note defibrillators at locations marked (24/7) are always accessible.

Defibrillators at locations other than these marked (24/7) are only accessible while the premises are in use.

If a key code is required for a defibrillator, call 999 and ask the call handler for the key code.

For your convenience, the telephone number for most locations have also been included.

Defibrillators can be found at the following locations:

Boverton: Boverton Castle Public House (01446 795544); **Corntown:** at the bus stop opposite The Meadow (24/7); **Ewenny:** The Village Store, on outside wall (24/7) (01656 719655); **St Priory Church:** in porch (24/7); **Llandow:** Village Hall, on outside wall (24/7) (01656 890235); **Llanmaes:** St Cattwg's Village Hall, on outside wall of entrance (24/7) (01446 793932); **Llantwit Major:** Bowls Club (01446 311599); Leisure Centre (01446 403000); Comprehensive School, on outside wall (24/7) (01446 793301); Well Pharmacy on outside wall (24/7) (01446 792267); Wyndham House Dental Surgery (01446 795240); Rugby Club (01446 792276); White Hart Public House, in telephone kiosk (24/7) (01446 796956); **St Athan:** Three Horseshoes Public House (01446 751043); Gathering Place (01446 750700); Golf Club, in members bar (01446 751043); MOD St Athan, East Gate guardroom (24/7); MOD St Athan, West Gate guardroom (24/7); Pharmacy, on outside wall (24/7) (03450 269995); South Wales Aircraft Museum (SWAM) in hangar (01446 782030); **St Donats** Atlantic College, in reception (01446 799000); **Sigingstone:** The Victoria Inn (01446 772383); **Wick:** Bus stop, next to Spar store (24/7); **Aberthryn:** Village Hall on outside wall (24/7) (01446 774311); **Colwinston:** The Sycamore Tree Pub, on outside wall (24/7) (01656 652827); **Cowbridge:** Broadshoard Leisure Centre (01446 403000); Edmond's Arms Public House (07812 447853); **Geoffery Ash Court:** on outside wall (24/7) (01446 773933);

Health Centre, Broadshoard (24/7) (01446 772383); Holy Cross Church (01446 772302); JCP office the Pavilion, High Street (24/7) (01446 771742); Southway Residential Home, on outside wall (24/7) (01446 772265); **St Mary Church:** in church porch (24/7); Tesco Express, (03450 269763); Town Hall (01446 773385); **Llanblethian:** Telephone Kiosk, on Bridge Road (24/7); **Llangan:** Village Hall (24/7) (07749 825267); **Penllyn:** Village Hall, outside on South wall (24/7) (01446 775794); **St Hilary:** Village Hall, outside (24/7) (01446 774890); **Treos:** on wall opposite entrance to Parc Newydd (24/7); **Ystradowen:** Village hall, outside entrance door (24/7); **Rhose:** Fontygary Inn, outside entrance door (24/7) (01446 711221); Library, on outside wall (24/7) (01446 710220); **Rhose Point:** on wall by roundabout after the long road (24/7); Bay View Nursing Home (01446 678002); **Five Mile Lane:** Amelia Trust Farm, in the cafe (01446 782030).

Free defibrillator training is available on February 18 and 20: Learn how to perform CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) and use a defibrillator by attending a free two-hour training course, no previous first aid experience required.

This short awareness course will take you through how to access and use a public access AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) and will teach you how to administer CPR.

Although the prospect of using an AED might be daunting, it's not and the increasing availability of public access AEDs makes it vital that the general public have access to awareness training.

The courses are suitable for anyone over the age of seven. No previous first aid experience is required.

This course is not suitable for those responsible for using a defibrillator in the workplace as a full AED training course is recommended.

When booking a place, please advise any impairments that the trainer needs to be aware of. The course will cover: primary survey, chest pains, resuscitation (CPR), introduction to the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) and all trainees will receive an e-certificate of attendance from St John Wales.

Courses will be held in the Compass Building (behind the old school).

To book a place, contact Cllr Gordon Wilkie, email: cllr.gwilkie@llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk or call 07715 555 112.

Jade's Wish to Walk makes strides!

FOR those of you who have been following the quest for Jade Owen's Wish to Walk, The GEM brings you some of the latest news.

As you probably know, Jade had her Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy (SDR) operation in July in St Louis. In the 20 months following, Jade has made excellent progress. She has intensive physiotherapy twice a week and spends a lot of time every day doing exercises.

Jade can now stand and walk a bit on her own. She finds that balance is sometimes difficult, so she has to be near something to hold on to or have someone to steady her.

After over 12 years of not walking, this is incredible progress. It is hoped that within the next six months, Jade will be walking unassisted for a short distance.

The fundraising continues to enable Jade to have her physiotherapy and the dozens of other expenses that are involved.

The third Jade's Valentine Disco will be held at 7pm on Saturday, February 15 in The Master Mariner, Barry, CF62 9DA.

Further information on the event is available from Jade via Facebook and she is arranging some transport from Bridgend to Barry.

There will be prizes for best dancer, best dressed and raffles.

It is possible to help Jade's cause by making a donation at www.gofundme.com/jade-wish-to-walk. Every penny you give goes to help Jade's Wish to Walk - nothing is taken for administration.

Gordon Trigg, Bridgend



Out & About with The GEM

Join the Treasure Box storytime!



THERE were stories, rhymes and songs galore at the new Treasure Box storytime session at Rhose Community Library last week.

The sessions are led by library volunteer Elaine Kill, every Wednesday from 10.45am to 11.15am. The library also offers an Amser Stori session (through the medium of Welsh), from 10am

Babies, pre-schoolers and their parents and carers are most welcome to come along to one or stay for both sessions. Both groups are drop-in and free of charge.

BH

Artists wanted for Penarth event

LOCAL artists, sculptors, photographers and galleries are required to take part in this year's Penarth Art Fair, which will take place in the Penarth Pier Pavilion from Friday, October 16-18, following the success of last year's Art Fair which featured the work of 13 artists and a local gallery on Penarth's seafront.

Organiser Michael Goode from Barry said: "I was really pleased with the response from the artists and the public to the Penarth Art Fair in 2019, with lots of sales, commissions and media coverage over the three day event. So, I am now looking for artists to get in touch if they want to take part this year."

There are only 12 stands available, and it is possible to share with other artists, or be part of a gallery or collective. For more information and prices, email: info@inc-creative.wales or visit the website: www.inc-creative.wales.



Events in your area

Community cinema
YSTRADOWEN Community Cinema will show *Downton Abbey*, when a royal visit from the King and Queen of England will unleash scandal, romance and intrigue that will leave the future of Downton hanging in the balance.

The screening takes place at the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday, February 12. Tickets are available from Tudor Garage, Ystradowen.

Cowbridge U3A

THE next Cowbridge U3A meeting will be a talk entitled 'Why does China...?', an analysis of the Chinese way of living and behaving, by Geoff Henderson at 2pm on Wednesday, February 12 in Cowbridge Town Hall. Visitors welcome; a small fee includes refreshments. See www.u3asites.org.uk/cowbridge

Bonvilston Community Cinema

BONVILSTON Community Cinema will show 'The Good Liar' on Thursday, February 13: career con artist Roy Courtney (Ian McKellen) can hardly believe his luck when he meets well-to-do widow Betty McLeish (Helen Mirren) online.

There are two showings, at 2pm and at 7.30pm. Doors open 30 minutes before, refreshments available. Entrance is £5 payable on the door.

Cowbridge History Society

THE society's next lecture will be on Friday, February 14 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

Brian Davies' talk will be on Evan Thomas and his lamps: please note the date of this meeting! All welcome. www.cowbridgehistorysociety.org.

Family History Society

THE next meeting of the Bridgend branch of Glamorgan Family History Society is on Monday, February 17 at the Len Evans Centre, off Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig CF32 9RF.

The speaker will be Ceri Joseph on 'The Normans in South Wales'. The talk starts at 7.30pm, everyone welcome.

Age Connects

THE following events take place at the Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry; call 01446 732385 for further information.

Welfare advice: Hafod Housing Support Services are running a free drop-in service monthly and can offer advice on matters including welfare rights and form filling. The first session will be held Tuesday, February 11 from 10am to 12pm and no appointment is needed.

Free legal advice: on making a Will, Power of Attorney or Living Will; no appointment is needed on Tuesday, February 11 at 10am to 12pm.

Health information: if you have arthritis, fibromyalgia, gout, lupus or are looking after someone with these conditions, a health information

session takes place on Tuesday, February 11 at 10 am to 12pm. Come and chat to Cymru Versus Arthritis, who can offer information and support.

Dementia care: Admiral Care work with people and their families affected by dementia and Alzheimer's disease and hold a session on Tuesday, February 18 from 10am to 12pm.

Epilepsy support: The next monthly outreach group will be on Thursday, February 20 from 10.30am to 12pm with health care professional Lesley Williams from Epilepsy Wales.

Victorian Life in Barry

THE Benefice of Barry is holding a History Night, as part of their fundraising for future projects.

Ever wondered what life was like in Victorian Barry? If so, come along to St Mary's Church, Holton Road on Friday, February 21 from 7pm-9pm when Nic Hodges will give one of his entertaining and informative talks.

Admission is £3 at the door, not suitable for children. Raffles and refreshments will be available for purchase.

PACT in the Vale

WHY not come along to Gibbonsdown 'Cuppa with a Copper' which is held every Monday morning at the Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close between 10am and 12 noon?

A Deaf PACT Meeting will be held on Monday, February 24 between 6pm and 7.30pm at the Emergency Services Centre, Barry Fire Station.

Dyfan PACT will be held at the Barry Fire Station, Port Road West, Barry on Monday, March 2 at 7pm.

'Cuppa with a Copper' will be held at Penarth Library on Thursday, February 13 at 10.30am.

Meet your local officer at Llantwit Major Library on Tuesday, February 18 between 10.30am and 11.30am.

Come along to 'Cuppa With a Copper' at St Mary Hill Golf Club at 11am on Tuesday, February 18.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact 101 for non emergencies or log onto: www.south-wales.police.uk where you will find contact details for your local PCSO to contact them directly for non emergency matters.

PACT meetings in Bridgend
SARN and Bryncoch PACT at Sarn Life Centre on Monday, February 24 at 7pm.

Bettws PACT at Bettws Life Centre on Thursday, February 27 at 5pm.

Maesteg East, Maesteg West and Llangynwyd PACT at Cwm Calon Day Centre on Thursday, March 12 at 6pm.

Could you become a puppy raiser for Guide dogs?

A BARRY pup is making good progress towards becoming a guide dog.

Diesel, a black labrador retriever, featured in The GEM last summer when he arrived at the home of puppy raiser, Barbara Scandrett.

The article helped Guide Dogs Cymru to recruit new volunteers in the Vale.

Diesel is now nine months old and has already mastered many of the skills he will need when he trains as a guide dog, coping well in busy environments such as shops and cafes.

Barbara said: "He knows all his commands and is good with children and other dogs. He has plenty of practice on public transport and goes on the bus at least once a week. We also take the train to visit my friend in Llantwit."

In a few months, Diesel will leave for Guide Dogs' training school, where Barbara will be able to pay him a visit.

She said: "People wonder how you cope with handing the puppy back to the charity after a year. Yes, it is hard, but you know he is going for a good purpose and will change someone's life."

"Diesel is the fourth puppy I've raised, and it's the best thing I've ever done. I've met some lovely people and made so many friends, plus I'm giving something back into the community."

Puppy raisers need a secure garden and access to a car. They must be able to spend much of the day with the puppy. Guide Dogs supplies basic equipment and covers all veterinary and feeding expenses. There are also regular puppy classes where volunteers can swap tips.

You can find out more when Guide Dogs visit Cowbridge Town Hall on Tuesday, February 11 and CF61 in Llantwit Mayor on Thursday, February 27. Both events run from 10am-2pm. Alternatively, call Jaye Connelly on 07468 711808 or email jaye.connelly@guidedogs.org.uk.



AM enjoys a Fairtrade cuppa



LEFT: Jane Hutt AM with Mark Mitchell, ValePlus staff and service users.

VALE AM Jane Hutt recently enjoyed a Fairtrade tea at ValePlus Cafe no 5 in High Street, to boost Barry as a Fairtrade town.

Ms Hutt said: "I was so pleased to go to Cafe no 5 run by ValePlus in High Street to enjoy a wonderful Fairtrade tea with trustees, staff and members."

"This is a welcome initiative by ValePlus to encourage businesses to promote and use Fairtrade products. Barry Town Council is working hard to ensure Barry is truly a Fairtrade town alongside schools and churches."

AM's call for pension scheme to stop investing in fossil fuel

OGMORE AM Huw Irranca-Davies has joined with Senedd colleagues to insist that their pension funds do not invest in fossil fuel companies.

In support of ongoing campaigns from Friends of the Earth and other environmental campaigners, the AM has signed up to the organisation's call to see all public bodies in Wales stop investing in damaging fossil fuels.

As a climate change campaigner, Mr Irranca-Davies AM said: "I am happy to support this call for 'divestment' – which

is taking money away from unethical funds.

"By divesting from fossil fuels, we can help support more vulnerable countries where people are already experiencing the frontline impacts of climate change."

"We are all affected by the climate crisis and I'm pleased to see the Welsh Government has already declared a climate emergency as part of making Wales a globally responsible nation."

"It's not too late to act on climate change but we need to act now – we all have a duty to play our part."

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Awards ceremony celebrates building excellence in the Vale

THE 17th Vale Council Building Control 'Building Excellence' awards were held at the Vale Resort, Hensol on January 24.

Victoria Walker from the Vale Council said: "The nominations in every category were of the very highest quality and I congratulate all the winners, who will now have the chance to compete against the winners from other councils in south Wales in the 'South Wales Building Excellence' awards which will be held at the Vale of Glamorgan Hotel and Spa Resort, Hensol on May 1, 2020, hosted by, Wynne Evans.

"The awards have shown the quality of work that is being undertaken throughout the Vale of Glamorgan and we are proud to be rewarding and encouraging quality in the construction industry.

"Our thanks must also go out to the sponsors, who have enabled the event to be firmly placed in the annual diary – Nina Estate Agents, The Glamorgan GEM, The Vale Resort, ACD Skip and Recycling, Ivorfire, Vale Consultancy and Jewsons along with Cromar and SJ Building and property maintenance."

The evening also raised a massive £552.73 on the night for NSPCC and Marie Curie.

The award winners who will go forward to the South Wales event are:
EXTENSION AND ALTERATIONS
Martin Watts-Jones for Mountain Lodge, Hensol.

BEST INDIVIDUAL NEW HOME
Edwards Construction for Ebony House, St Nicholas.

BEST SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECT
M&J Cosgrove for Cwrt Parc, Woodlands Road, Barry.

BEST SMALL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
Hale Construction for Greenwood Close, Wenvoe.

BEST LARGE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
Taylor Wimpey for Phase 1 of Clare Garden Village, Cowbridge.

BEST SMALL COMMERCIAL
Llanerch Vineyard, Hensol.

BEST PARTNERSHIP PROJECT
Varco Consultants, for Various Projects.

BEST SITE AGENT
Chris Jones of Taylor Wimpey.

BEST LOCAL BUILDER
Mike Jenkins of Jenkins Builders.
The Council wish all of the above schemes good luck in progressing to the National Awards Finals.



LEFT:
The Vale Council's Building Control Team



LEFT: The Best Large Housing went to Clare Garden Village, Cowbridge, and Best Site Manager was Chris Jones of Taylor Wimpey.



ABOVE: The Best Small Housing Development went to Hale construction for their work at Greenwood Close, Wenvoe.



ABOVE: The Best Commercial development went to Llanerch Vineyard.



ABOVE: Mountain Lodge was named as the Best Extension/Alteration, and the award was accepted by Martin Watts-Jones.



ABOVE: The Best Social Housing award, presented by Cllr Christine Cave, went to M&J Cosgrove for Cwrt Parc, Woodlands Road, Barry



ABOVE: The Best Site Manager was Chris Jones of Taylor Wimpey, pictured with Jan Irving of The GEM.



ABOVE: The Best Local Builder went to Mike Jenkins of Jenkins builders.



LEFT:
Ebony House took the Best New Dwelling award and was the work of Edwards Construction.



LEFT:
The Best Partnership award went to Varco Consultants.

Road group calls for progress on new roads in Barry and Dinas Powys

A GROUP calling for improvements to roads in the eastern Vale is asking the Welsh Government and the Vale Council what progress is being made.

The Barry to Cardiff Link Road Group has been campaigning on this issue for some time, and a spokesman said: "The Welsh Government and Vale Council appear to be stalling infrastructure improvements at the same time the council is pushing forward with a huge quota of housing developments, despite the fact that its Local Development Plan (LDP) requires infrastructure improvements to cater for more housing."

"Dinas Powys, Llandough, Lower Penarth, Cosmeston, Cog, Sully and parts of Barry could all become one big traffic jam unless the authorities find solutions that work for the whole area."

For more than four years the independent group has lobbied for suitable infrastructure to accompany nearly 4,000 new homes that are in various stages of construction or planning along the A4055 and B4276 corridors between Barry Waterfront and Cardiff.

The group says this will mean around 12,000 extra road trips a day by 2025. This is indicated by studies carried out by three different Vale Council consultants over the last seven years.

One of the heaviest increases is the stretch of the A4055 between Biglis and Gladstone roundabouts where morning traffic will increase by nearly 20% to a rate of 2,500 vehicles an hour.

Sully Moors Road will see an even greater increase of over 35%.

The A4055 through Dinas Powys will increase by around 22% with the vehicle count going up to nearly 2,000 vehicles an hour at morning and afternoon peak times.

The group say that in October 2016, the Welsh Government's Finance and Transport Secretary, Ken Skates AM, acknowledged the need to sort out the transport problems through Dinas Powys. He instructed officers to work with their opposite numbers in the Vale on a study of the problem. He stated that whatever the solution, it would have to be fully funded.

The five-stage Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG) process began in February 2017 with the appointment of Arcadis Consultants. Three years later, the study hasn't got past Stage 2.

Last March, the Vale Cabinet was recommended to halt work on the benefits of an alternative by-pass option. This left a by-pass around Dinas Powys which would not prevent future gridlock from Biglis (MacDonalds) roundabout to the Gladstone tunnel roundabout in South Barry.

"In 2017, Cllr Lis Burnett, the Deputy

Leader of the Vale Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration pointed out the domino-effect of just by-passing Dinas Powys," said Rod Harrod, chair of the independent lobby group.

"She stated improvements for Dinas Powys would only move the problem to the two ends – Merrie Harrier and Biglis roundabout.

"Is that why work on Stage 2 of the study has virtually ground to a halt since the change of Leadership in the Vale Council? They don't seem to want to even talk about alternatives."

Roger Pattenden, a retired civil engineer and also a member of the lobby group, said that WelTAG requires that all projects must include consultation with the public and end-users.

"It took the by-pass group to lobby the council to improve representation. I was elected by Dinas Powys Council to represent the community on the WelTAG Review Group, but in three years, the Vale Council has only called two meetings of the review group, to which a disturbing number of representatives have failed to attend.

"The second public consultation, where residents can be informed about the Stage 2 Study has been put back until May – that's more than three years after the first consultation.

"More than 12 months ago, the Vale Council's consultant Arcadis was asked to propose a solution to the already over-capacity Merrie Harrier junction. In their 2013 Highways Impact Assessment (HIA), consultants Capita Symonds indicated that traffic at this junction would be 400 per cent over capacity by 2026.

"We've put forward various professionally-prepared options for the Merrie Harrier junction including a double-roundabout.

"We have had discussions with officials at Llandough Hospital who have expressed a serious need for a second entrance to the hospital that has trebled in size in the last few years and continues to grow.

"We also suggested an alternative by-pass route at the Barry end to relieve the whole of the A4055 up to Ffordd y Mileniwm."

Mr Pattenden explained that with a short connection to Sully Road, this route would also relieve Sully and the B4267 from extra traffic from the 1,750 homes planned or in progress along that corridor.

Cllr Edward Jenkins said: "Both the Vale and Dinas Powys councils appear to be impressed solely by a statement from a local councillor that the majority of traffic causing the ever-increasing log-jams through Dinas Powys comes from and goes to the link road.

"However, this does not fit with the traffic survey carried out as recently as 2018 by Arcadis. This shows that the figure is less than



ABOVE: Members of the Barry to Cardiff Link Road Group, Cllr Edward Jenkins BEM; Rod Harrod, group chair and Roger Pattenden Phd, MICE.

a quarter of the traffic to or from Dinas Powys with the majority using the main road into and out of Barry.

Earlier this month the Dinas Powys Council made a complete about-turn in its unanimous request to widen the study scope at the Barry end to allow the alternative route to be fully examined.

"I cannot think of a time in the over 50 years that I've served the community both on councils and in other capacities when I felt more upset at the actions of my colleagues," said Cllr Jenkins.

"Apart from war time this is the biggest issue facing Dinas Powys ever. The Link Road Group seeks only to ensure all options are examined in accordance with WelTAG.

"Others seem to want to prematurely decide the outcome before the public are even consulted," said Rod Harrod.

"This isn't just going against WelTAG but also the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 that requires

authorities to work, not only with each other, but with the public to prevent and tackle problems.

"Options should be considered in the context of the whole Barry to Cardiff corridor. Otherwise, when any application for funding is put forward to the Welsh Government, the inability of the short by-pass option to provide a whole corridor solution may be used as an excuse to throw out any by-pass."

Emma Reed, the Vale Council's Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport, said: "After the council was unsuccessful in securing Welsh Government funding to complete the Welsh Transport Appraisal Guide stage 2 process, it made more than £60,000 available to complete a study into potential transport improvements for Dinas Powys.

"After this work has been completed in the next couple of months, cabinet will consider the best way forward."

Litter heroes are once again joining forces for Spring Clean Cymru

KEEP Wales Tidy is calling on people across Wales to help improve the environment on our doorstep by getting involved in its annual Spring Clean Cymru campaign.

The charity is aiming to inspire thousands of people to join forces to collect and safely dispose of litter from our streets, parks and beaches, recycling as much as possible. Community groups, schools and businesses will all be taking place between March 20 to April 13.

Spring Clean Cymru is part of the Great British Spring Clean. In 2019, more than 563,163 people, including 175,055 students, volunteered their time to take part in the campaign – the biggest ever!

This year's campaign will not only see tonnes of

litter being removed from the environment on our doorstep, it also aims to rescue thousands of the plastic bottles and aluminum drinks cans that are simply thrown on the ground but could, very easily, be recycled.

Lesley Jones, Chief Executive for Keep Wales Tidy, said: "The value of a good quality environment can't be underestimated. It not only affects the look and feel of a place, but has a significant and far-reaching impact on our health and wellbeing and the local economy. That's why we're encouraging the people of Wales to get outdoors, be proud and help care for where they live. We want to make spring clean bigger and better than ever!"

To find out more about Spring Clean Cymru visit www.keepwalestidy.cymru.





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Bridgend Athletic RFC Mini & Junior players give it a go in the mud



U7: The Ath u7s hosted a round robin with Nantymoel and Tondy at Newbridge Fields and were able to put out three teams, giving all the squad game time.

Despite the sticky surface the boys carried on where they left off last week with enterprising rugby in attack and solid defence. The conduct of all players from all the teams was a credit to their clubs and led to a thoroughly enjoyable morning of rugby.

U8: The u8s sent a squad to Pyle and one to Nantffyllon. The Ath Greens played some great rugby against Pyle with Osian Phillips the standout performer. The Ath Golds also played great rugby against Nantffyllon, showing discipline in their defensive shape. Stand out performers for the Golds were Callum Brown and Charlie Tune. Next up for the u8s is a trip to Valley Ravens for a round robin with Mumbles.

U9: Ath' u9 Greens travelled to Nantffyllon, and from the first whistle both sides were intent on expansive rugby, despite conditions being extremely wet underfoot. Nanty' with their intricate passing and switch moves kept the Ath' players guessing throughout. The Ath's outstanding defensive performance, however, frustrated the home side ambition and quashed their offensive onslaughts.

At times, Nanty lost players from the field of play through injury. The Ath' players who had to adjust their numbers accordingly didn't allow this to affect them and showed maturity and organisational skill in adapting to the numerical changes. Every single one of the Ath' players put their stamp on an excellent all round team performance. In one extended match the Ath ran out worthy victors, with a scoreline of 13 tries to 12.

U9 Golds: Bridgend Ath u9 Golds hosted Barry at Newbridge Fields.

It was a bruising encounter with both sides playing fast flowing rugby. The first try by the Ath came from creative passing from Jacob Daniels, allowing Toby Williams to step on the gas and score a try in the corner. Barry replied with a try immediately, which set the pace for the match.

Further tries from both teams with great defensive performance led by Regan Webb who had an outstanding game. All the Ath players put their bodies on the line and played with high intensity and determination to overturn the ball. Tries scored: by Will Mordecai 3, Regan Webb 2, Toby Williams 2, Ioan Jones 1. The Ath u9s won with a well-deserved 40-35.

U10: Bridgend Ath u10s split their squad into two: one team hosted Treorchy and Beddau at Newbridge Fields and the other travelled to Nantffyllon.

The Ath Greens came up against two very big, physical teams, but never took a backward step. The Ath Greens first played Beddau outscoring them 7 tries to 2. The Ath Greens then outscored Treorchy 6 tries to 2, fantastic team performance.

The Ath Golds, not to be outdone, also put in a fantastic team performance against Nantffyllon scoring 10-0. The coaches are extremely pleased with both teams' defensive efforts, 23 tries scored in total by the Ath and only 4 conceded. Try scorers were Ethan Davies 5, Mason Brown 3, Rudi Quinn 3, Rory Whyte 3, Dylan Hopkins 2, Rhys Gardiner, Dylan Gardiner, Osian Kenny, Osian Lord, Zack Hughes, Max Edwards, Billy Evans.

Final Scores: Bridgend Athletic 35 v 10 Beddau, Bridgend Athletic 30 v 10 Treorchy, Nantffyllon 0 v 50 Bridgend Athletic.

U11: The u11s welcomed Nantymoel and Nantffyllon to Newbridge Fields this weekend. In difficult conditions some excellent rugby was played by all involved. Despite conceding two early tries, the Ath triumphed against Nantffyllon, outscoring the visitors by 8 tries to 2. Ollie Wilson, Evan and Chaitu scored once with Oliver Williams crossing for 5 tries.

Against Nantymoel the Ath scored 5 unanswered tries before 3 consolation tries for the visitors made the final score Ath 5, Nantymoel 3.

Oliver Williams, Charlie Richards, Albert, Theo and Evan scored a try each. A great team effort today with some excellent rugby played in slippery conditions. The team look to build on the day's wins in training this week, before welcoming Porthcawl to the Fields this coming weekend.

U14: The u14s welcomed Llantwit Fardre to Newbridge fields after a week off due to frost and while the going was heavy underfoot, at least the sun was shining. The Ath started the game well, with good play between forwards and backs and scored their first try. A good line out move getting quick ball to the backs meant the Ath made good ground. With some quick pick and goes by the forwards Dan Honeyfield was brought down just short of the line, but a final pick up by Harry Griffiths enabled him to crash over the line.

The lead lasted until just before half time with Llantwit Fardre spending a lot of time camped in the Ath half before scoring two quick tries – with neither converted – to lead 5-10 at the break.

The second half started in the same fashion as the first, with the Ath on the front foot and putting Llantwit under pressure. After a good period of play with fantastic interplay between Harry G and Dan H, the Ath were unfortunate not to score. From the resulting defensive clearing kick Rhys Hockings chased back, picked up and headed for space out wide. After managing to beat several defenders he out sprinted the rest of the defence to score a try in the corner.

That though was the best of the second half for the Ath as Llantwit Fardre took control of the game, with some good forward carries and quick back play enabling them to score three unanswered tries and one converted. This led to the final score of The Ath 10 - 27 Llantwit Fardre.

Barry Town shock rivals with signing of Welsh international



BARRY Town United were the talk of Welsh football this week, after the Jenner Park club announced the surprise signing of Wales international midfielder David Cotterill.

The 32-year old, pictured above with Gavin Chesterfield, who was part of Chris Coleman's Euro 2016 squad, was unveiled on Thursday evening and is poised to go straight into Gavin Chesterfield's plans for this Saturday's JD Cymru Premier Phase Two opener, with the team at home to Connah's Quay Nomads (2.30pm kick-off).

After making 18 English Premier League appearances for Wigan Athletic (with the Latics paying £2,000,000 to bring him from Bristol City as an 18-year old), Cotterill racked up a further 270 in the Championship and 106 more in League One, turning out for the likes of Swansea City, Portsmouth, Barnsley, Doncaster Rovers and Birmingham City.

Debuting for John Toshack's Wales against Azerbaijan in October 2005, Cardiff-born Cotterill made his international bow as a substitute for the current national team boss Ryan Giggs and was capped at senior level some 24 times in total, including appearances against Brazil and Germany.

Cotterill's last Wales cap came in the 2018 FIFA World Cup Qualifying Round draw with Georgia at the Cardiff City Stadium.

Speaking on Thursday, Barry manager Gavin Chesterfield said: "I'm delighted to welcome David to the club. It's a boost for all involved with our football club and supporters of Welsh football. This has been something we have talked about for a while but the timing now seems right".

"At only 32 years old, David has a lot to offer on the field and in the changing room. He has shown a desire to be a part of our club and play with (cousin and Barry captain) Jordan. David started his football at Barry Bluebirds at the age of six and it is great to welcome him back to Barry".

With news of Cotterill's signing

setting social media alight, the club hopes that a bumper crowd will be at Jenner Park to greet him this Saturday, in spite of the competition of televised Six Nations rugby.

Commenting on his Twitter platform, Welsh football historian and author Phil Stead remarked "There's a case to argue that David Cotterill is the Cymru Leagues' biggest name signing ever".

As it turned out, Cotterill was not the only one with family ties to arrive at Jenner Park last week, with Kyle Patten leaving Merthyr to join his brother Robbie in Chesterfield's squad for Phase Two.

The Barry manager has touted the 25-year old as "a versatile player who can play in both defence and midfield, with a good pedigree and background both with Cardiff City and Newport County".

Meanwhile, the club has confirmed a handful of first team departures, with 19-year old goalkeeper George Ratcliffe returning to parent club Cardiff City for rehab after his upcoming knee surgery and maverick goalscorer Jonathan Hood emigrating to Australia, having made 55 appearances for Barry.

Hood scored 16 times in an eventful two-year stay at Jenner Park, including an unforgettable free-kick in the depths of stoppage time to secure a dramatic 2-2 draw away to The New Saints.

Finally, there was plenty of cup success to celebrate at Jenner Park on Sunday afternoon, as Barry Town sides advanced in the Welsh Women's League Cup and the Welsh Youth Cup competitions.

By beating Airbus 3-1, the Barry development squad will now face TNS in the Welsh Youth Cup semi-final on neutral ground in March, the winners advancing to a final against either Newtown or Chirk.

Meanwhile, the ladies progressed to the last four of their tournament with a 4-1 victory over Cascade, with Penybont and Merthyr among the potential opponents at the semi-final stage.

Report by Ashley Cox

Friday frustration for Barry

THERE was disappointment for Barry in their rescheduled League fixture against Rhwibina last Friday evening, when after leading 10-0 at the interval, they fell to 19-13 defeat although the result gave them a vital bonus point.

Their next League fixture is away at St Josephs on Saturday, February 15, kick off at 2.30pm.

This Saturday, the Youth will play Llandaff at home, kick off at 12 noon. The lottery rolls over to £1,350 this week after last week's numbers 09 - 11 - 14 and 20, failed to find a winner, one ticket matched three numbers to win £10.

Email your stories, photos, letters and sports reports to editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Barry resident Ruby celebrates her 100th birthday



Ruby Drake recently celebrated her 100th birthday with her family and Barry Town Mayor Margaret Wilkinson in attendance.

RUBY Drake recently celebrated her 100th birthday on January 27 in Springbank Nursing Home, with Cllr Margaret Wilkinson, Barry Town Mayor and her family.

Ruby lived in Atlantic Place for more than 40 years and her daughter Margaret still lives in Barry, and her son Stephen in Scotland. Ruby also has four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

WD

Latest news from Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade



IT has been a busy time for the Juniors of 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade.

It was recently Martin Luther King Junior Day, and they spent an evening reflecting on this.

They thought about his famous 'I have a dream' speech and considered what their own dream for the future would be.

Two members of the Juniors travelled to Cardiff for the board games competition.

This involved playing snakes and ladders, Connect 4, dominoes and draughts against other companies from across Wales. Our boys were fourth – well done!

Second Llantwit Major and 1st Bloxham met in Tewkesbury on Saturday to play for a place in the last four in England and Wales in the chess competition.

Unfortunately, one of the Llantwit Major members couldn't make it, but Thomas and Ciaran were determined to do our company proud.

Although Bloxham won the match, all those involved had a wonderful experience. Congratulations to all the young people and we wish Bloxham all the best in their next match.

If anyone would like further information about Boys' Brigade in Llantwit Major please contact Debbie on (01446) 796208.

Music in the Vale gala concert was a great success

THE Music in the Vale Young Musicians' Competition presented a gala concert on January 26 at All Saints Church, Penarth, and featured 14 winners from the November 2019 competition.

The large audience included Vale AM Jane Hutt, a strong and long-time supporter of the competition, together with the Mayor of Cowbridge, Cllr Alec Trousdell and his Consort and representatives of Cowbridge Male Voice Choir. The choir has expressed a desire to hold a joint fundraising concert, hopefully in June.

The level of performance from all on stage was of the highest standard, reflected in the enthusiastic comments from members of the audience.

Music in the Vale is already preparing for the November 2020 competition with professional adjudicators being contacted to judge the performers and provide invaluable feedback.

Vocalists, instrumentalists and ensembles aged between eight and 23 wishing to take part in this year's competition should email secretary@musicinthevale.org.uk – mobile 07740 288990 – or review the competition's website www.musicinthevale.org.uk for entry details.

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Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern:
We, Enke Limited, do
hereby give notice that we
have applied to the
Licensing Authority (Vale of
Glamorgan Council) for the
grant of a premises licence at
69 High Street,
Cowbridge, CF71 7AF
known as The Yard Pizzeria.
The application is for a
premises licence to serve
alcohol from Monday to
Thursday 11.00 to 23.30
Friday and Saturday 11.00
to 00.00
Sunday 11.00 to 22.00
Any persons wishing to
make representations to this
application may do so in
writing to the Licensing
Department, Vale of
Glamorgan Council, Civic
Offices, Holton Road, Barry,
CF63 4RU, or by e-mail to
licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk not
later than 28 days after the
date of this notice.
Representations received
after this date will not be
considered.
A copy of the application can
be viewed at the Civic
Offices during normal office
hours. It is an offence
knowingly or recklessly to
make a false statement in
connection with this
application. The maximum
fine on summary conviction
is £5,000.
Signed: P Langford
Date: 27th January 2020

Family Notices

COOPER

Ronald (Ron)

Passed away on 24th January, aged 76 years,
after a short illness. Sadly missed by wife Sandra,
son and daughter-in-law Vernon and Clare
and grandchildren Alex, Ben and Daniel.
Also father to the late Gordon.

Funeral to take place on Tuesday, 11th February
at 10am at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium,
Port Road, Barry.

No flowers please, donations to British Heart
Foundation in memory of Ron can be made
c/o A.G. Adams Funeral Directors, Barry.

OLIVER

William (Bill)

Sadly passed away at Llandough Hospital on the
19th January 2020. Devoted husband of Mary.
Bill will be sadly missed by all who
knew and loved him.

Resting at Park Funeral Directors until the service of
Thanks Giving at St Mary's Church, Dinas Powys
on Wednesday, 12th February at 11am, followed by
the interment at Western Cemetery Cardiff.

Family flowers only any donation in lieu will be
gratefully received and given with thanks to Marie
Curie and Tenovus.

REED

Alfred John (John)

Passed away peacefully on 28th January 2020 at
the University Hospital of Wales. Adored uncle
to Heather, Varley and Ken. Cherished
great-uncle to Tara, Nikki and Tam and great
great-uncle to David, Max and Crissy.

John will be greatly missed by all his
family and friends.

He will live on forever in our hearts.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the
service on Friday, 21st February at 12pm at Cardiff
and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

Flowers are welcome. Donations, if desired,
in memory of John, may be made to National
Dog's Trust.

The family ask that as John loved colour,
to celebrate his long life, please wear a splash
of colour.

OWEN

Professor John Wyn

It is with great sadness that we announce
the passing of Professor John Wyn Owen CB,
aged 77 years. Much loved husband of
Elizabeth, loving father of Sian and Dafydd,
and devoted grandfather of Pearl, Tom,
Fearnie & Allegra.

A proud Welshman originally from Bangor,
North Wales. Following university at St Johns
College, Cambridge, he had a distinguished
career of dedicated service, leading change in
public health across the globe.

His funeral will take place at 2pm on Wednesday,
12 February 2020 at Ramoth Chapel, Cowbridge.

A memorial service will be held in Cambridge
later in the year.

Family flowers only. Donations, if so desired, for
Marie Curie can be made to mariecurie.org.uk, for
whose support he was deeply grateful.

Enquiries to W.H. Preene & Son, Mwyndy,
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Tel: 01443 223368

Advertisers please note:
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Family Notices

HOARE

Reuben "Charlie"

Peacefully at the University Hospital of Wales on 31st January. Beloved husband of the late Margaret, loving father of Chris, daughter-in-law Janine, much loved grampy of Lewis and Matthew.

Charlie will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral Friday, 14th February, service 12.45pm at Penmark Church, followed by interment 2pm at Porthkerry Cemetery. Family flowers only.

MERRICK

Margaret Eiluned (Lyn)

Died suddenly at home on 20th January, aged 76 years. Sadly missed by her husband Peter, fellow adventurer for 56 years, her beloved daughters Judith and Helen, son-in-law Phil, and sister Christine. Wonderful nana to her six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday, 18th February at 3.15pm, followed by a celebration of her life at The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, at the service to Hope Rescue.

In Memory

In Loving Memory of
REBECCA JONES

9th March 1981 - 8th February 2018

Mum we love you.

We love you still, today, tomorrow and always,
Love Jacob and Immy xxx

In Loving Memory of
REBECCA JONES

9th March 1981 - 8th February 2018

Mum, Dad, Rosie,
Ollie and Tommy

LICENSING ACT 2003

Section 17 (5)

Notice of Application for a Premises Licence

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT

An application has been made to Bridgend County Borough Council (the Licensing Authority) for a PREMISES LICENCE.

To permit licensable activities which it is proposed will be carried on, on or from the premises shown below. Details of the application may be inspected between the hours of: Monday to Thursday 0830 to 1700 hours and Friday 0830 to 1630 hours at Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB or by visiting the authority's website: www.bridgend.gov.uk. Any responsible authority or any other person may make representations in respect of the application, which must be submitted, in writing, to the following address before the date shown below: Licensing Section, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

Name of applicant: Mr Zahid Rasul and Mrs Saima Rasul

Name and postal address of the premises: Eden Wine Bar & Ego Nightclub, 33 Market Street Bridgend CF31 1LJ

Statement of intended licensable activities: (1) STATEMENT OF INTENDED LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES:

(1) The provision of regulated entertainment in the form of plays, films, indoor sporting events, boxing, or wrestling entertainment, live music, recorded music, performances of dance and anything of a similar description the provision of the late night refreshment and the supply of alcohol regulated entertainment as above and the supply of alcohol will take place Sunday to Thursday 11:30 hours to 2:30 hours Friday and Saturday 11:30 hours to 4:30am hours and Sunday proceeding a national Bank Holiday, Christmas Eve, Boxing Day 11:30 hours to 4:30am hours and New Year's Eve 11:30 hours to New Year day carry on activities. The premises will remain open for 30 minutes beyond the terminal hour for the supply of regulated entertainment, late night refreshment will be provided on every day that the premises is open for trade.

DATE BY WHICH REPRESENTATIONS MUST BE MADE: 27th February 2020

This notice remains in force from the including the day after the giving of this notice to the licensing authority, namely 30th January 2020 for 28 consecutive days. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction is £5000.

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DONOVAN

John Patrick

After a brave battle with Alzheimer's, John passed away on 1st February 2020, aged 79 years. Beloved husband of June, loving father to Ceri, Victoria and Jonathan. Cherished grandfather to Georganne and Benjamin and great-grandfather to Phoenix.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service on Tuesday, 18th February at 10am at A.G. Adams Chapel, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Flowers may be sent directly to the funeral home. Donations if desired, in lieu of flowers, in memory of John, may be made to Ty Hapus at the service.

NEWCOMBE

John Peter

Peacefully on 17th January 2020, aged 72 years.

Devoted husband of Jayne, loving father of Elaine and Stephanie, adored grandfather of Harry, Seren and Ellis. John will be sadly missed by his sister Betty and all his family and friends. Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service in the Funeral Home Chapel on Thursday, 13th February at 2pm, followed by a committal service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Family flowers only donation in lieu of flowers may be made at the service.

MOLLART

Shirley Vivienne

3 July 1933 - 9 February 2015

Beloved sister of Valerie, Hazel, Grenville and Deirdre. Much loved sister-in-law of Marian and George. Devoted aunt of Rebecca, Julia, Fiona and Alex. Nephews-in-law Roger and Robert. Dear great-aunt of David, Matthew and Sophie.

Dear Shirley, missed every day xxx

In Loving Memory of
Pauline Sivyer

5th February 2017

Three years have passed since you were taken from us. Some say it gets easier with time, it doesn't to me; it gets harder.

Although I spend every day visiting your graveside, it can never be the same.

All my love, now and always.
Gordon xxx

HAYLES

Dorothy Rose
(née Daniels)

Peacefully died on 28th January, 2020 at Milsom House aged 98 years. Beloved wife of the late William Charles, mother to Marjorie, Colin and Lorraine, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service at St David's Church on Friday, 14th February at 2pm, followed by a committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Alzheimer's Research at the service.

SIDEY

Michael Paul

Peacefully on Saturday, 18th January at the Princess of Wales, Hospital Bridgend. Paul of Porthcawl; beloved husband of Cynthia, much loved dad of Helen and Philip and a dearly loved grandpa, brother and uncle.

Paul will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral service on Monday, 10th February at Margam Crematorium at 11am. Family flowers only please. There will be a collection following the service, with proceeds being divided between the Alzheimer's Society, RNLI & Men's Shed.

All enquiries to Richard Mustoe of Porthcawl Funeral Services, 75 New Road, Porthcawl, CF36 5DH. Tel: 01656 783699.

LEWIS

Siân May

30.05.1975 - 30.01.2020

On Thursday, 30th January 2020, we lost our darling daughter, mother, sister, nan, aunty, niece, granddaughter, cousin and friend.

The lights have gone out of our lives for a while, but we know we all loved her.

Rest in peace with the angels.
No more darkness, sleep tight xxx



Thank You

Thank You
Enid Evans
would like to say thank you for the visits, flowers, cards and messages received during her recent illness.
The concern and kindness shown was much appreciated.



Why not put a smile on someone's face and show them how much you care with a birthday or anniversary announcement.

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THOMAS

Alan Ford (ATF)

Suddenly at home on 26th January 2020, aged 85 years. Devoted husband to Patricia.

Alan will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service in our Chapel on Friday, 21st February at 10am, followed by a committal service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Family flowers only donations in lieu of flowers may be made to The Welsh Air Ambulance at the service.

CARTER

Richard Horace

Peacefully at home on 26th January with his devoted wife Jacqueline at his bedside, loving Dad of Judy, Julie, Joanne and Jonathan. Cherished Grandad to his 10 Grandchildren and one Great-Granddaughter.

Richard will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

The service to commemorate his life will be held at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Tuesday, 11th February at 1pm.

Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired, may be sent to Pancreatic Cancer UK, 3 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7SP in memory of Richard.

Funeral Arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service.

SULLIVAN

Winifred Rose

Very peacefully passed away on 27th January 2020 at The Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, aged 84 years. Superb wife to husband Aubrey. Terrific mother to their four sons Seamus, Liam, Brendan and Colum and their wives/partners Sue, Lisa, Marjorie and Morna. Special grandmother to their eight grandchildren Judd, Kyra Rose, Finlay, Kyra Saffran, William, Michael, Murdo and Sorcha and great-grandmother to Isla.

Funeral service and cremation at 1.15pm on Wednesday, 19th February 2020 at Coychurch Crematorium, Coychurch, Bridgend. Resting at the private funeral home of W. James & Sons, Fommon.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu to The Alzheimers Society.
With grateful thanks to all those who looked after Win in her later life.

To advertise your situations
vacant, family notices,
birthdays, anniversaries,
etc, call Sue on
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CAIRNS-JONES

David Gareth

Peacefully after a short illness, at Morriston Hospital, on 15th January, Gareth of Cefn Nant, Pencoed. Dearly loved husband of Sandra and much-loved father of Guy.

Gareth will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

Funeral Friday, 14th February. Service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 11.30am.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu may be made to the Dog's Trust or The Pit Pony Sanctuary, Pontypridd c/o Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, 2, Hilda House, The Square, Pencoed, Bridgend, CF35 5NP. Tel: 01656 860545.

JONES

Frances Lynda
(née Nelson)

Peacefully on 28th January at Marie Curie Hospice, Fran, much loved Mum of Gavin, Rhian and Gemma. Cherished Nanny to all her Grandchildren, loving cousin, (sister) to James and Julie.

Fran will be greatly missed by all her family and many friends.

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Tuesday, 11th February at 11am.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service or via Fran's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk to support Cancer Research Wales.

What's on at the movies? The GEM looks at the latest releases heading for your screens

DAMON Smith reviews the latest film releases.

This week: Robert Downey Jr talks to the animals in the special effects-laden adventure *DOLITTLE*... mallet-wielding anti-heroine Harley Quinn (Margot Robbie) faces a merciless crime lord in the comic book caper *BIRDS OF PREY (AND THE FANTABULOUS EMANCIPATION OF ONE HARLEY QUINN)*... Kristen Stewart confronts unspeakable horrors beneath the waves in action thriller *UNDERWATER*... and a family of con artists infiltrate the home of an unsuspecting wealthy couple in Bong Joon-ho's Oscar-nominated thriller *PARASITE*.

FILM OF THE WEEK

PARASITE (15, 132 mins)
Thriller/Comedy/Horror/Romance.
Song Kang-ho, Chang Hye-jin, Choi Woo-shik, Park So-dam, Lee Sun-kyun, Cho Yeo-jeong, Jeong Ji-so, Jung Hyeon-jun, Lee Jung-eun, Park Seo-joon. Director: Bong Joon-ho.

Released: February 7 (UK & Ireland, selected cinemas)

Writer-director Bong Joon-ho mines a mother lode of deliciously cruel intentions in his wickedly entertaining, genre-bending satire, which is certain to convert some of its six Oscar nominations into golden statues.

Carreering wildly from slapstick and scabrous social commentary to full-blooded horror, *Parasite* gleefully inhabits the cavernous divide between South Korea's haves and have-nots.

The script, co-written by Han Jin-won, lulls us into a false sense of security with a gently paced yet engrossing opening hour before Joon-ho tightens the screws on his desperate characters, setting in motion a jaw-dropping second act that leaves our nerves in tatters.

The film-maker dissipates tension with staccato bursts of ghoulish humour but each belly laugh is soaked with bile – primal screams of despair at a world that repeatedly kicks the poor and disenfranchised when they are down.

"Money is an iron" notes a mother on the wrong side of the class divide, who asserts that wealth smooths out life's creases and would undoubtedly sweeten her malodorous disposition.

With Joon-ho at the helm, any barbs are positioned with surgical precision to draw spurts of blood as the besieged protagonists stagger forlornly towards the brink of self-destruction.

Wily patriarch Kim Ki-tek (Song Kang-ho) presides over a family of con artists, including his sharp-tongued wife Chung-sook (Chang Hye-jin), mild-mannered son Ki-woo (Choi Woo-shik) and daughter Ki-jung (Park So-dam).

They live in a squalid basement apartment in a poor neighbourhood of Seoul with a prime view of drunken passers-by urinating in the street.

The resourceful clan exploit free Wi-Fi to secure thankless jobs such as folding cardboard pizza delivery boxes.

It's an unedifying hand-to-mouth existence.

Good fortune smiles unexpectedly on Ki-woo when good friend Min-hyuk (Park Seo-joon) recommends him as an English tutor for teenager Park Da-hae (Jeong Ji-so).

Ki-woo falsifies his qualifications to impress Da-hae's wealthy mother Yon-kyo (Cho Yeo-jeong) and father

Dong-ik (Lee Sun-kyun).

Once he has earned the couple's misplaced trust, Ki-woo recommends a college friend called Jessica as an art therapist for Da-hae's younger brother, Da-song (Jung Hyeon-jun).

Sister Ki-jung arrives in the guise of Jessica and confidently passes off theories from the internet as her personal philosophy to unlock a child's potential.

Ki-tek and Chung-sook also seek positions under false pretences.

However, the simmering suspicions of fashionable housekeeper Mun-kwang (Lee Jung-eun) threaten to expose the ingenious deception.

Parasite is a lip-smacking delight, which divides our sympathy as moral compasses are wilfully ignored in pursuit of happiness.

The light, airy, modernist splendour of the Park family residence becomes increasingly claustrophobic as characters are enslaved to their materialistic desires.

Joon-ho retains masterful control over every element including the abrupt changes of tone in a gob-smacking second hour that proves home is where the heartbreak is.

:: SWEARING :: SEX :: VIOLENCE :: RATING: 9.5/10

DOLITTLE (PG, 101 mins)
Fantasy/Adventure/Comedy. Robert Downey Jr, Harry Collett, Antonio Banderas, Michael Sheen, Jim Broadbent, Carmel Laniado, Jessie Buckley, Kasia Smutniak and the voices of Tom Holland, Dame Emma Thompson, Rami Malek, John Cena, Kumail Nanjiani, Ralph Fiennes, Craig Robinson. Director: Stephen Gaghan.

Released: February 7 (UK & Ireland)

Robert Downey Jr talks to creatures great and small but fails to communicate effectively with fellow humans – including us – in a special effects-clogged odyssey inspired by Hugh Lofting's 1922 book *The Voyages Of Doctor Dolittle*.

Director Stephen Gaghan, who won an Academy Award almost 20 years ago for his adapted screenplay for the gritty thriller *Traffic*, searches in vain for animal magic as he shepherds a fitfully fantastical caper from the streets of Victorian London to far-flung island locales.

En route, Antonio Banderas buckles a swash as a salty seadog, who appears to have been shipwrecked from the *Pirates Of The Caribbean* franchise, and Michael Sheen barely registers as Dolittle's scheming rival, who is dismissed as a "chinless wonder" by the eponymous medic.

Downey Jr walks the same plank of intentional weirdness as Johnny Depp's Jack Sparrow by adopting a strangled Welsh accent, which varies in thickness from one scene to the next.

It's a perplexing creative choice by the star with no dramatic payoff.

Humour misses the mark with alarming frequency and a climactic comic set-piece involves the doctor forcibly unlogging a creature's swollen bowels.

He inhales a gale-force blast of flatulence as a reward. Regrettably, it's not the only thing that stinks.

Following the death of his adventurer wife (Kasia Smutniak), gifted veterinarian Dr John Dolittle (Downey Jr) closes the doors to his animal hospital.

He becomes a recluse, surrounded by a menagerie of chums including bespectacled lurcher Jip (voiced

by Tom Holland), wise macaw Polynesia (Dame Emma Thompson), self-doubting gorilla Chee-Chee (Rami Malek), polar bear Yoshi (John Cena) and ostrich Plimpton (Kumail Nanjiani).

The unexpected intrusion of a boy called Tommy Stubbins (Harry Collett) coincides with an urgent summons to Buckingham Palace.

Queen Victoria (Jessie Buckley) has been poisoned with a pernicious variety of nightshade and the only remedy is the fruit of the mythical Eden tree.

Dolittle and fledgling apprentice Tommy head to an isle of bandits and thieves ruled by King Rassouli (Banderas), with fierce rival Dr Blair Muddy (Sheen) in hot pursuit.

Alas, an ill wind blows through the expedition and Dolittle fears his gallant efforts will be in vain.

"I can sniff defeat like a truffle pig," he snorts.

Dolittle does little to engage family audiences, interspersing a haphazard storyline with digitally rendered critters including a vengeful tiger (Ralph Fiennes) and paranoid squirrel (Craig Robinson).

Downey Jr doesn't lay claim to a single laugh in 101 minutes while Nanjiani fares slightly better as the self-loathing ostrich, who opines: "My father was right about me. He said I should have been an omelette."

Every time his flightless bird buries his head in the sand, we contemplate joining him.

:: NO SWEARING :: NO SEX :: VIOLENCE :: RATING: 4/10

UNDERWATER (15, 95 mins)
Action/Sci-Fi/Horror/Thriller/Romance. Kristen Stewart, Vincent Cassell, TJ Miller, Jessica Henwick, John Gallagher Jr, Mamoudou Athie. Director: William Eubank.

Released: February 7 (UK & Ireland)

Seven miles beneath the surface of the Pacific Ocean, no-one can hear you scream.

Director William Eubank soaks up inspiration from the *Alien* franchise and *The Abyss* to plug holes in a water-logged sci-fi horror, which pits a small crew of hapless humans against gnarled creatures, which have been disturbed by our relentless plundering of the planet's resources.

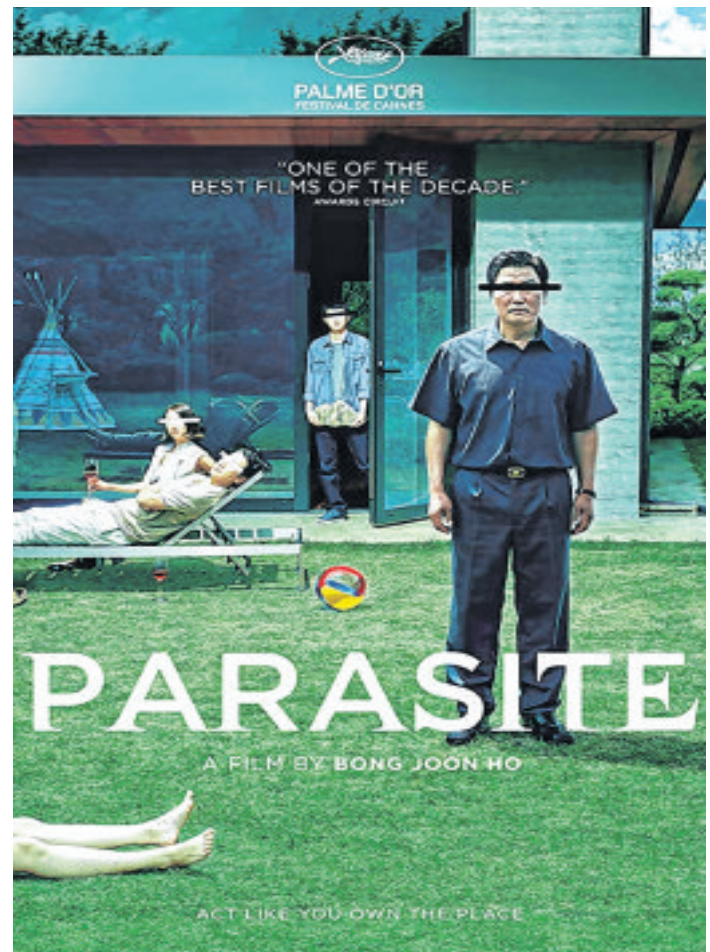
"We're not supposed to be down here," whispers one hastily sketched character, hammering home the message that Mother Nature has every right to retaliate against greedy intruders.

Those ominous words could apply to Eubank's pedestrian, derivative jaunt, which systematically feeds the cast to monstrosities that lurk in the dark until the most likely suspects take a courageous final stand.

Kristen Stewart's tormented heroine, who is scarred by a tragedy that parachutes abruptly into conversation in the final reel, is modelled heavily on Sigourney Weaver's Ripley, replete with breathless sprints down labyrinthine corridors in figure-hugging undergarments.

A couple of action sequences are rendered incomprehensible by the light-starved, sub-aquatic setting and, when characters abandon common sense to linger in a claustrophobic location or stray where they shouldn't, you can comfortably brace for a jump shock.

Nora Price (Stewart) is a Tian Industries mechanical engineer at the Kepler drilling station perched close to the crescent-shaped Mariana Trench.



KANG HO, LEE SUN KYUN, CHO YEO JEONG, CHOI WOO SHIK, PARK SO DAM, JEONG JI SO, JUNG HYEON JUN, LEE JUNG EUN, PARK SEO JOON. Director: BONG JOON HO. Released: February 7 (UK & Ireland).

A devastating tremor causes catastrophic failures to the station's integrity and most of the crew perish as the structure implodes.

Nora sprints to temporary safe haven with fellow engineer Rodrigo Nagenda (Mamoudou Athie) where she is reunited with Captain Lucien (Vincent Cassell) and three fellow survivors – research assistant Emily Haversham (Jessica Henwick), her sweetheart Liam Smith (John Gallagher Jr) and teddy bear-obsessed oaf Paul Abel (TJ Miller).

A detailed assessment of the station's functionality reveals that an energy core meltdown will decimate what remains of the Kepler facility.

Captain Lucien proposes a daring course of action: slip into pressurised body suits and undertake a perilous one-mile walk in the dark along the bottom of the ocean to neighbouring Roebuck Station.

In the inky void, the group encounter a small, deformed creature with taloned tentacles that appears to be feeding on bodies of co-workers.

"It's probably not a good time to ask but is that a baby?" quips Paul, pointing to the tiny creature as something larger and deadlier floats unseen a few metres away.

Underwater doesn't waste time treading aqua before Stewart and co-stars are soaked, bleeding and staring death in the face.

The script's hurried approach to storytelling gives us little time to contemplate minor crimes against logic or clunky dialogue.

The cast embrace the physical demands of their underwritten roles, while Miller makes the most of limited screen time as the designated comic relief.

A tepid romantic subplot is surplus to

requirements and poses a moral dilemma that can only have one lacklustre outcome.

:: SWEARING :: NO SEX :: VIOLENCE :: RATING: 4/10

BIRDS OF PREY (AND THE FANTABULOUS EMANCIPATION OF ONE HARLEY QUINN) (15, 109 mins)

Released: February 7 (UK & Ireland)

Mallet-wielding former psychiatrist Harley Quinn (Margot Robbie) made a memorable appearance in the 2016 comic book romp *Suicide Squad* alongside her cackling partner in crime, The Joker.

The anti-heroine snags a spin-off film directed by Cathy Yan, based on a script by Christina Hodson.

Birds Of Prey (And The Fantabulous Emancipation Of One Harley Quinn) unfolds after Harley and The Joker have parted ways. The mercenary hopes to turn around her life but old habits die hard and she falls into the clutches of sadistic gangster Roman Sionis (Ewan McGregor) and his henchman Victor Zsasz (Chris Messina).

Harley bargains her life in exchange for a precious diamond in the possession of orphan thief Cassandra Cain (Ella Jay Basco).

Roman grants her a few precious hours to retrieve the gem or suffer the grim consequences.

Bullets fly as Harley carries out her daring scheme, which positions her on collision courses with Gotham police detective Renee Montoya (Rosie Perez), vigilante Helena Bertinelli (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) and nightclub singer Dinah Lance (Jurnee Smollett-Bell).

Tony Yates takes the electrifying Kia e-Niro 64 kWh 'First Edition' on the road

AT the beginning of this year, I said I was going to be testing more EVs in 2020.

Thanks to Kia, I have now experienced my first electric vehicle in the form of the new Kia e-Niro 'First Edition'.

I was dead against testing any sort of EV, but after a week of living with the new e-Niro, I'm happy to report that it's absolutely brilliant.

Power and efficiency: The e-Niro I tested was fitted with a permanent magnet AC synchronous type 64 kWh electric motor which develops 201bhp and 395Nm of torque which feels very lively and more than happy to be driven hard on the motorway or rumble around in urban towns or a large city.

Of course, it's an (EV), which means it goes like stink and the electric motor that propels you from zero to hero in no time at all is powered by a bank of batteries that are capable of storing a large amount of electricity.

As for the range, I'm happy to report that I travelled over 280 miles on one full charge.

When comes to performance, the e-Niro is more than capable of reaching 0-60 in just over 7.5 seconds and in no time at all, it will reach a top speed of 104 mph.

Not super fast, but the speed limits on the UK roads are only 70mph max, so that means there's plenty left in reserve for the overtaking manoeuvres you

can make at every opportunity. On a standing start from the traffic lights, could be performing a 'Santa Pod' style scenario with the car next to you.

Driving range: The Niro is pretty good on a full charge (280 miles). Get the e-Niro into city mode and that can increase by quite a lot. So as you can see from the figures here, it's pretty good. The battery capacity is 180Ah with 294 cells and a weight of 457(Kg)– this means nothing to me because I'm not a scientist, but to some of you, it probably means so much more.

On the road: There is extra weight that you need to factor in due to carrying many batteries, but to be honest, it felt just like any other crossover you care to mention and it felt better than the petrol version of the Niro out on the open road.

Design and technology: Kia gives you a lot for very little money, more than most actually. Some of the equipment on my test car in 'First Edition' trim included; 17" Alloy Wheels, 7" Supervision Cluster with TFT Colour Display, 8-speaker JBL® Premium Sound System, Smart Key and Button Start, Black Leather Upholstery, LED Headlights with Bi-Function Projection, 10.25" Touchscreen Satellite Navigation with European Mapping, Smart Cruise Control with Stop and Go, Lane Keep Assist with Driver Attention Warning and High Beam Assist, Forward



Collision-Avoidance Assist and a whole load more features that makes the e-Niro stand out.

In summary: The e-Niro is one of the first EVs that I have tested – and I like it a lot. The Kia e-Niro is a no-fuss crossover that in essence is just a really good

stylish vehicle for any family wishing to find a perfect partner in the green world we now all strive to live in. Five stars for Kia.

Price: £32,995 (as tested) after £3,500 government grant.

Barry victors over Llandaff in difficult conditions

THE Barrians entertained Llandaff on a foggy wintry afternoon at the Reservoir Field as they hoped to put last week's disappointing result behind them.

With conditions difficult for both sides and the official, it was no surprise that the early exchanges were littered with handling errors and a spate of scrums and penalties.

After a scoreless first quarter, it was the hosts who had the first score.

With the slope in their favour, the visitors finally got into gear and reduced the deficit by three with a successful penalty kick.

Llandaff launched further attacks on the Barry line and were eventually rewarded by an unconverted try out wide as the hosts ran out of defenders.

Undeterred, the Barrians halted their visitors' momentum, and had the upper hand for the rest of the half.

They regained the lead on the stroke of half time when Provis threw a long pass out to the

left, and after smart exchanges between Jamie Leech and Wayne Jones the latter was on hand for his second score. Barry went into the interval 10-8 ahead.

The hosts took full advantage in the second half despite increasingly difficult conditions with the fog reducing visibility. Llandaff struggled with the pace and power of the Barrian back-line, and following a fine break from Dave Provis, Rhys Knapman accelerated away to score under the posts. Jones added the extras.

The Barrians continue to dominate and following a clever kick to the corner to gain territory, Ashton Allen stole the resulting line out for his side's bonus-point score.

Jones missed the conversion from out wide but now the home side were in the driving seat for the game.

There was no let up for the visiting side and it was Allen again who powered over from close range, after territorial domination by the hosts.

The scoring was not over as

more smart exchanges in midfield saw make-shift centre Owain Poole crossing for his side's sixth try.

Jones somehow missed from in front of the posts but the score was now 34-8. Llandaff did not give up and dominated the closing exchanges as they looked for a score of their own, but despite some good build-up play were thwarted by resolute Barrian defending, led by replacement flanker James Hadfield.

The final score was a reflection of the Barrians' dominance, especially in the second half. The green-and-whites will hope to carry this momentum for the rest of their league campaign.

Tries: W Jones (2), Allen (2), Poole, Knapman Cons: W Jones (2/5)

Team: W Jones, Leech, Provis, Knapman, Corson, Adams, Dimond, Haigh, Ashill, Hall, G Jones, Allen, Rolfe, Poole, Goodfellow. Replacements: Evans, Hadfield, Chow.

Final score: Barrians 34, Llandaff 8.

Winter golf at Brynhill

A BREAK in the weather last Sunday taking second place with 36 – the same score as tempted 60 members onto the Brynhill Golf Club course for a winter singles competition.

The best numbers on the day were 39, shot by retired police officer Gareth Tinnuche with another former police officer, Chris Phillips,

Paul Clarke, but with a better back nine. It is back to four ball better ball next week, so it's probably worth seeking a retired policeman as a partner, if you want to increase your chances of a podium finish.

AS

Barry and District Men's Skittles League

THE results of the Barry and District Men's Skittles League's recent Holme Towers Cup second round are:

Barry Park B beat Hairy Lemons; Mighty Dockers beat Merryman; Bunker Boys beat Posties; Billy Whizz beat CUD; 49ers beat Willie

Wombles; Sea View beat Colcot Boys; Blue Monkey beat Tynny Lads; Park Rangers beat Abercrete.

View all results and league tables at www.barryleagues.co.uk.

JW

Cavaliers' winter nets

WITH the festive season well and truly over, thoughts for all of us are turning towards the summer.

The Cavaliers cricket team will be focusing on the challenges that lie ahead against new opposition, following a successful promotion season. First team captain Gareth Toult was looking to provide high quality winter net training in the best possible facilities to improve the current squad, while

attracting new players to the club, and he secured Wales' Centre of Excellence for Cricket in Sophia Gardens. Sessions start on Sunday, February 9 from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. The club is actively looking to increase player numbers with a view to growing the opportunities to play cricket within this friendly local club. Anyone interested in 'giving it a go' should contact 07779 285997 or check out the Llantwit Major Cavaliers website.

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16 16 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDi KX-3 5dr Automatic AWD (Facelift), Kia warranty May 2023, sat nav, reverse cam

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17 67 BMW 320d M Sport 4dr Step Auto, BMW warranty Jan 2021, sat nav, bluetooth, black, full leather

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15 65 FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge 3dr, pan roof, Bluetooth, usb, alloys, 23k, choice

£5795 NO BUYERS FEES



16 66 BMW 420d [190] M Sport 2dr Auto, M Sport + pack, 19" alloys, grey, full leather

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FORD WARRANTY FEB 2022
19 68 FORD FOCUS 1.0 EcoBoost 125 ST-Line X 5dr, Ford warranty Feb 2022, sat nav, cruise, heated seats, 7k,

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16 66 JAGUAR F-PACE 2.0d R-Sport 5dr Auto AWD, Pan roof, sat nav, 20" alloys, 16k, met red, full leather

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16 16 DS 3 1.2 PureTech Elegance 3dr, cruise, dab, 17" black alloys, 17k, yellow

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17 67 JEEP RENEGADE 1.6 MultiJet Night Eagle II 5dr, Jeep warranty Nov 2020, sat nav, privacy glass, cruise,

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16 66 BMW 225xe Luxury 5dr [Nav] Auto, pan roof, sat nav, 35k, grey, full leather

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17 67 BMW 420d (190) M Sport 5dr gran coupe automatic, BMW warranty oct 2020, 19" alloys, pro media,

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17 17 FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCI 120 Zetec Edition 5dr, Ford warranty April 2020, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, silver

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17 66 ABARTH 595 1.4 T-Jet 145 3dr, air-con, dab, sat nav, 27k, yellow **£9995**

16 65 AUDI A3 1.6 TDI 110 S Line 5dr [Nav], Bluetooth, xenons, white, half leather **£11995**

18 18 AUDI A3 1.4 TFSI e-tron 5dr S Tronic, Audi warranty April 2021, sat nav, heated seats, choice, half leather/leantara. **£16995**

12 12 AUDI A3 2.0 TDI S Line 2dr Convertible, Bluetooth, cruise, misano red, full leather **£5995**

17 17 AUDI A4 2.0 TDI Ultra Sport 4dr S Tronic, auto, sat nav, 17" alloys, cruise, black **£13795**

17 67 AUDI A4 AVANT 2.0 TDI Ultra 190 S-Line Estate S-Tronic Automatic, Audi warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, heated seats, 19k, red, half-leather **£19295**

16 16 AUDI Q7 3.0 TDI Quattro S-Line 5dr Tiptronic Automatic (7-Seater), 20" alloys, sat nav, 35k, white, half-leather .. **£29495**

16 66 BMW 116d SE 5dr [Nav] Step Automatic, Pro nav, service pack, 19k, platinum silver **£12995**

16 66 BMW 225 1.5 XE Sport ACTIVE TOURER 5dr Automatic, 4wd sat nav, heated seats, 22k, white, full leather **£16995**

17 67 BMW 320 D M Sport Shadow Edition 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, harman kardon, heated seats, blue, full leather **£16295**

15 65 BMW 335 D XDrive M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, through load, 38k, silver, full leather **£16995**

16 66 BMW 320 D M Sport Estate Automatic, heated seats, grey, full leather **£15795**

16 66 BMW 330e M Sport 4dr Step Automatic, M Sport + pack, 19" alloys, sat nav, choice, full leather **£16495**

16 66 BMW 420i M Sport 2dr convertible Auto [Professional Media] Sat nav, 19" alloys, 9k, silver, full leather **£19995**

15 65 BMW 420 D XDrive M Sport Coupe Automatic, 19" alloys, sat nav, 16k, blue, full leather **£17495**

16 66 BMW 420 D XDrive M Sport Gran Coupe Automatic, m sport plus pack, 19" alloys, sat nav, electric glass sunroof, blue, full leather **£18995**

17 67 BMW 420 D Sport Gran Coupe 5dr (190bhp), BMW warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, 20k, black, full leather **£16995**

16 67 BMW 530e M Sport 4dr Auto, BMW warranty Jan 2021, apple car play, 19" alloys, nav, wireless charger, 25k, black, full ivory leather **£23995**

16 66 BMW 520 D M Sport Estate Automatic, pan roof, 190bhp, sat nav, 33k, choice, full leather **£15495**

17 67 BMW 530d XDrive M Sport 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Jan 2021, sat nav, 19" alloys, Harman kardon, grey, full leather **£24995**

16 66 BMW 535d Gran Turismo M Sport 5dr Step Automatic, sat nav, soft close doors, reverse camera, 33k, silver, full leather **£22995**

16 66 BMW 640d M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, 19" alloys, xenons, 29k, blue, full beige leather **£22495**

15 15 BMW M5 4.4 4dr DCT automatic (559bhp), elec glass sunroof, 19" alloys, sat nav, reverse camera, 26k, white, full leather **£26995**

15 65 BMW X1 2.0 D XDrive X-Line 5dr Automatic (190bhp), sat nav, 18" alloys, 32k, bronze, full leather **£16795**

16 68 BMW X2 sDrive 20i M Sport 5dr Step Auto, BMW warranty Jan 2022, 19" alloys, sat nav, privacy glass, 5k, black **£23995**

16 16 BMW X3 xDrive20d M Sport 5dr Step Automatic, sat nav, 19" alloys, black, full leather **£17995**

15 65 BMW X5 3.0 D XDrive M Sport 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), 20" alloys, sat nav, reverse camera, carbon black, full leather **£26495**

17 67 FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge 3dr, pan roof, alloys, usb, dab, choice **£6295**

17 67 FIAT 500X 1.6 E-Torq Pop Star 5dr, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 12k, black **£10295**

17 67 FORD EDGE 2.0 TDCI 180 Titanium 5dr 4WD, Ford warranty Dec 2020, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 16k, silver with full leather **£20495**

17 17 FORD FOCUS 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Zetec 5dr, Ford warranty April 2020, sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, 18k, met blue **£9995**

17 67 FORD FOCUS 1.0 EcoBoost 140 ST-Line Navigation 5dr, Bluetooth, LED lights, USB, privacy glass, 12k, black **£12495**

19 69 FORD FOCUS 1.5 EcoBoost 182 ST-Line X 5dr, Ford warranty Oct 2022, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, only 311 miles in white, half-leather **£19995**

16 66 FORD S-MAX 2.0 TDCI 180 Titanium Sport 5dr X-Pack (7-Seater), pan roof, sat nav, 33k, black, full leather **£17495**

19 19 HYUNDAI i30 2.0 T GDI N Performance 5dr (271bhp), Hyundai warranty April 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, 19" alloys, 3k, black, half-leather **£21995**

19 69 HYUNDAI KONA 1.6 150kw GDI Hybrid Premium SE 5dr Automatic, Hyundai warranty Oct 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, only 464 miles in orange **£22995**

19 19 HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.6 CRDi SE Nav 5dr 2WD, Hyundai warranty May 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, 7k, grey, full leather **£18995**

16 66 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRDi Blue Drive Premium 5dr 4WD, Hyundai warranty Dec 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, privacy glass, blue, full leather **£14495**

16 66 INFINITI Q30 2.2D Premium Tech 5dr DCT automatic 4WD, panoramic roof, 18" alloys, 19k, grey, full leather **£15795**

16 67 JAGUAR F-PACE 3.0d V6 S 5dr Auto AWD (300bhp), Jaguar warranty Dec 2020, 20" alloys, sat nav, 28k, white, full two tone leather **£31995**

17 67 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.0 MultiJet Limited 5dr 4WD, Jeep warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, 13k, grey, full leather **£16495**

16 16 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.2 CRD MultiJet 200 Limited 5dr Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, 41k, met grey, full leather **£13995**

18 18 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.2 CRD MultiJet 200 Limited 5dr 4WD Automatic, Jeep warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, privacy glass, 12k, choice, full leather **£16995**

15 15 JEEP RENEGADE 1.6 MultiJet Sport 5dr, alloys, privacy glass, 14k, orange **£9495**

16 66 JEEP RENEGADE 2.0 MultiJet Limited 5dr Automatic 4WD, sat nav, heated seats, black, full leather ... **£9495**

13 63 KIA CEED 1.4 CRD 1 Estate, air-con, Bluetooth, aux, usb, silver **£4495**

18 68 KIA CEED 1.4 T GDI ISG Blue Edition 5dr, Kia warranty Dec 2025, sat nav, reverse camera, 8k, blue **£14995**

18 68 KIA NIRO 1.6 GDI Hybrid 4 5dr DCT Automatic, KIA Warranty until November 2025, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 13k, grey, full leather **£21995**

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 T-GDI GT-Line 5dr Automatic AWD, Kia warranty Nov 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, choice, full leather **£14495**

17 67 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 T GDI GT-Line 5dr 4WD, Kia warranty Nov 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, 12k, white, full leather **£16495**

16 16 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDi KX-3 5dr (Facelift), Kia warranty June 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, 25k, choice, full leather **£13295**

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14 64 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER 3.0 TDV6 Autobiography 5dr Automatic, pan roof, TV, sat nav, electric side steps, reverse camera, white, full leather£34995

17 67 LEXUS IS300h Advance 4dr CVT Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, 17"alloys, cruise, grey, full leather...£17495

18 68 MAZDA 3 2.2 D SPORT Nav 5dr, Mazda warranty Sept 2021, sat nav, headup display, reverse camera, black, full leather£14995

18 68 MERCEDES A180 D AMG Line 5dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, dab, 15k, choice, half-leather£19795

16 66 MERCEDES CLA200 D Sport 4dr, cruise, Bluetooth, aux, usb, 28k, red£15495

17 17 MERCEDES CLA 200d AMG Line Estate Tip Automatic, Mercedes warranty May 2020, sat nav, 18"alloys, black, half leather£16495

18 68 MERCEDES C200 AMG Line Premium 5dr Estate 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, dab, usb, 8k, choice, half-leather£22995

19 19 MERCEDES C300 D AMG Line Premium 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty April 2022, sat nav, reverse camera, 1k, choice with half-leather£28995

17 67 MERCEDES E220 D SE 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, 17k, choice, full leather£19995

17 17 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Aug 2020, widescreen sat nav, ambient lighting, heated seats, xenons, 20k, choice...£19795

17 67 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 5dr Estate 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 13k, choice, half-leather£20495

18 18 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 2dr Convertible Automatic, Mercedes warranty April 2021, sat nav, 20"alloys, reverse camera, 9k, black...£26995

17 67 MERCEDES GLC 220d 4Matic AMG Line 5dr 9G-Tronic, Mercedes warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, 15k, choice, full leather£22995

18 68 MERCEDES GLC220d 4Matic AMG Line Premium 5dr 9G-Tronic Auto, Mercedes Benz warranty Sep 2021, pan roof, sat nav, 20"alloys, 4k, white, full leather...£29995

16 66 MERCEDES GLC220d 4Matic Sport Premium 5dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, choice, full leather£21495

18 18 MERCEDES GLS350 D 4Matic AMG Line 5dr 9G-Tronic Automatic 7-Seater, Mercedes warranty Aug 2021, night pack, Harman kardon, sat nav, pan roof, 13k, white, full leather...£43995

16 66 MINI COUNTRYMAN 2.0 S D 5dr, chilli pack, heated seats, 18"alloys, 32k, blue£11995

16 16 MINI CONVERTIBLE 1.5 2dr, JCW chilli pack, heated seats, reverse camera, 12k, white, half-leather...£12495

16 66 MINI PACEMAN 1.6 ALL4 3dr Automatic, media pack - sat nav, pepper pack, tlc pack, 7k, silver, half-leather£11995

17 67 MITSUBISHI ASX 1.6 3 5dr, Mitsubishi warranty Dec 2020, reverse camera, heated seats, 11k, white...£11995

14 14 NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI Visia 5dr, air-con, alloys, grey£6295

16 66 NISSAN JUKE 1.5 dCi N-Connecta 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, choice£8995

18 68 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.2 DiG-T N-Connecta 5dr, Nissan warranty October 2021, sat nav, 18"alloys, pan roof, 7k, black£15995

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18 18 RENAULT CLIO 0.9 TCE 90 Urban Nav 5dr, Renault warranty March 2022, sat nav, Bluetooth, pdc, 3k, blue£9495

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17 67 RENAULT KADJAR 1.2 TCE Dynamique Nav 5dr, Renault warranty Nov 2021, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, 15k, white...£11795

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17 67 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDI SE 5dr DSG Automatic, VW warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, cruise, dab, 17k, grey...£18995

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17 67 VOLVO S60 2.0 T4 [190] Business Edition Lux 4dr, Volvo warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, 17k, blue...£12995

18 68 VOLVO V60 2.0 D4 (190) Momentum Estate Automatic, Volvo warranty Dec 2021, sat nav, heated seats, 10k, black...£21495

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15 15 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI R 3dr DSG Automatic (300bhp), cruise, Bluetooth, xenons, heated seats, 46k, met blue

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15 65 RENAULT TWINGO 0.9 TCE Dynamique S 5dr, sat nav, rev camera, white

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17 67 MERCEDESE220d AMG Line 2dr Convertible 9G-Tronic, sat nav, air scarf, maroon hood, white, half leather/suede

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18 18 RANGEROVER VELAR 2.0 D180 R-Dynamic SE 5dr Auto, 20"alloys, rev camera, Bluetooth, 10k, grey, full leather

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16 16 VOLVO XC60 D4 [190] SE Lux Nav 5dr Geartronic, sat nav, cruise, 31k, white, full leather

£17995 NO BUYERS FEES



14 14 MERCEDES A200 [2.1] CDI AMG Sport 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, grey

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18 18 TOYOTA PRIUS+ 1.8 VVTi Icon TSS 5dr CVT Auto (7-seater)reverse camera, Bluetooth, white

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13 63 MERCEDES E250 CDI AMG Sport 2dr Convertible 7G-Tronic, sat nav, reverse camera, 43k, black, full leather

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16 66 RANGEROVER 3.0 TDV6 Vogue SE 4dr Auto, 20"alloys, panoramic roof, contrast roof, 20k, silver, full leather

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On and Off the Turf with Brian Lee

TIM Vaughan's stable jockey Alan Johns has been in good form of late.

Last Wednesday, January 29 riding for Vic Dartnall, he won the handicap chase at Leicester on *Admiral's Secret* which had been runner-up in its two previous races. A 5-1 chance, *Admiral's Secret* won by two and three-quarter lengths from the top weighted *Catamaran Du Seuil*.

Then 24 hours later at Ffos Las in the Congratulations Evan Williams On 1,000th Winner Beginners Chase, and riding the nine-year-old *The Ligny* for Tim he got his mount home by half-a-length from *Jammy George*. *The Ligny* was returned at odds of 9-1.

Evan's Ffos Las double

Evan Williams, who recently saddled his 1,000th winner, took the last two races at Ffos Las on Thursday, January

30. His six-year-old *No Rematch* won the handicap hurdle by five lengths from *Call Me Sid* and his *Mouse In The House* won by six lengths from *Champion Chase*.

Both were partnered by Adam Wedge and both horses were returned the 7-2 joint-favourites.

Evan's *Sabbathical* was a 15-length winner of the handicap hurdle at Leicester the previous day under Adam Wedge, so Evan has made a good start to chalking up his next 1,000 winners.

Clerk of the Course at Ffos Las is former amateur rider Dai Jones but Dai's son Ben was in action at Wincanton where he won the bumper (National Hunt Flat Race) on the Emma Lavelle-trained *Runswick Way*.

Barry Chess Club teams pull out of losing streak

THIS week, two Barry Chess Club teams that have been struggling were in action.

Could both of these teams turn around their fortunes?

Of course they could. In division 2 the Camelots were at home to the Penarth Pirates and in division 3 the Gambits were away to the promotion-chasing Pontypridd Spartans.

The Camelots picked up their first win in five matches, with Steve Cunliffe, Tom and Mark Cooke all winning with Matthew Davies and Dave Parsons earning draws. Our victory by 4-1 means we remain in third place in the table.

Our position in the table looks better still as in fourth place the Caerphilly Castles could only pick up three points from their local derby against the bottom team Caerphilly Knights. We are only 1.5 points behind the table-topping North Cardiff Titans.

After a whitewash in their last game against the Quarks, the Gambits needed a result to ensure

the relegation battle does not engulf us. Michael O'Leary took our solitary victory but draws for Peter Watkins, John Stephenson and Sam White ensured a draw.

The Gambits have played a game more than most but have 25 points from 11 games. We are in sixth place but 6.5 points above the relegation zone.

Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30 pm most Mondays, excluding Bank Holidays, at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly game.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but it is better to contact one of the club members through the website first so that we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at <http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com>

PJ

The Llantwit Nippers do well in lifeguard competitions

THE Nipper Lifeguard competition calendar for 2020 began on February 1 with the SLSA Wales Nipper Still Waters at Swansea National Pool: Llantwit won the award for the earliest arrival, with the Bartlett-Jenkins clan claiming a spot for the team by the scoreboard by 7am!

The age 13 girls' 50m flipper race started the day and although the Llantwit competitors were placed well, it took until event 8 before they won any medals. Alfie Smith snatched a bronze medal in the age 10 boys' race and Tula Jennings a bronze in the age 8 girls' race, competing in her first Wales Still Water competition.

The manikin carry was the next event, when Emily McDonagh flew down the pool to grab gold in the age 12 girls' race. Josie Thomas followed with a gold in the age 11 girls' and Lilly Hewitt in the age 8 girls' race; also a gold in her first Wales Still Water competition. In the Rescue Tube Race Relay, where one competitor swims 25m then signals to their partner to come rescue them and tow them back, the competition was fierce with some fast times but Llantwit just couldn't get themselves medals. The age 8-10 boys' pairing of Alfie Smith and Twm Williams were unlucky to just miss out and were placed fourth overall.

The Medley Relay didn't produce any medals for Llantwit, and it was soon onto the Board Race events, where the

competitors go down the pool on a rescue board. Times were fast and Rees Harris secured a bronze in the age 13 boys' event. Alfie Smith in the age 10 boys' not only got gold, but smashed the record, which had stood since 2016, with a time of 26.91s.

Board Rescue was next on the agenda and again, times were fast. The pairing of Martha Pegrum and Josie Thomas secured the silver medal in the girls' 11-13 race. In the age 13 boys' race, the pairing of Dylan Godsell and Rees Harris were rewarded in their last Wales Nipper Still Water competition with a bronze. The boys' ages 8-10 pairing of Alfie Smith and Olaf Szamocki won their heat and ended up with a bronze.

With weary parents and competitors, the final event of the day was the

ages 8-13 board relay. The boys' team came third in a fast heat but just missed out on the medals, coming fourth overall.

The Llantwit team came out fourth out of 13 teams which was a fantastic achievement, given the size of the team. Congratulations to Rest Bay who came third, Sker and Pink Bay who came second and Pen y Bont who were the overall winners.

Many thanks to the SLSA Wales team for their organisation and smooth running of the day plus all the officials from the various clubs, without whom the event could not run.

The team now focus on the GB Still Waters being held at Cardiff Pool in March.

IG

Penarth's first under 7 girls' team



InterPenarth under 7s have made history this season, fielding the first all girl team in our leagues. They are a mixed league and welcome girls to participate. Well done, coach Ian Williams and the girls.

Bridge clubs in the Vale

Penllyn ON January 2, 16 pairs: first Marian East and Rita Williams 61.36%; second David and Marion Stephenson 60.06%.

January 9, 18 pairs: first Dot Williams and Pam Hanmer 59.94%; second Marian East and Gill Wybrow 57.95%; third Eric and Anne Sparks 57.67%.

January 16, 16 pairs: first Judith and Colin Nunn 64.94%; second Allan Evans and Alan Beckwith 59.42%; third Helen Owen and Penny Jarvis 59.09%.

January 23, 17 pairs: first Sally Kennedy and Lyn Chamberlain 62.86%; second Wayne Stephens and Mary Wallis 61.43%; third John Lord and Jo Ilsey 60.71%.

January 30, 19 pairs

Robert Brown Cup Competition: first Phil and Lou Edwards; second Julia Evans and Chris Impey 60.94%; third Marian East and Barbara Easterbrook 59.90%.

Barrivale RESULTS from January 28:

First, Mark Roderick and Mike Close 66.67%; second, Celia and Huw Thomas 61.51% and third, Peter Millar and Tim Barsby 60.12%. The handicap winners were Celia and Huw Thomas. To join us, call any of the following numbers: 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry at 7pm on Tuesday evening. Classes and assisted play at the Pioneer Hall Friday mornings at 10am -12.30pm.

Triple triumph for Sue at Dinas

THE latest results from Dinas Powis Golf Club Ladies Section are as follows:

On January 7, a nine-hole medal was played: First, Sue Bridle 45-9=36 nett; second, Rhian Thomas 54-17=37; third, Sue Edwards 58-17=41 nett. On January 21, a nine-hole Stableford was played: First, Sue Bridle 16 points (on back six from second, Samantha

Saunders); third, Angela Brown 15 points.

On January 28, a nine-hole Texas scramble was played: First Sue Bridle, Audrey Harwood and Sharon Jesson 42-6.83=35.17 nett; second, Ann Mahenthiralingam, Angela Brown and Sue Edwards 43-6.16=36.84.

Despite the awful weather we have been so lucky to play our games this month and look forward to playing in better weather in the future.

RY

Barry and District Clubs league results

THE latest results from the Barry and District Clubs tables are:

Crib Division 1: Cup Semi-finals first leg: Romilly Railway 8, Rhooose Social 7; Cadoxton Cons 10, Liberals 5.

Skittles Division 1: Cup quarter-finals: Rhooose Social C beat Cambrian Flyers; West End D beat Liberals A; Allsorts beat West End C; Rhooosters beat Barry Town FC.

Snooker Division 1: West End C 4, Cadoxton Cons Z 1; Penarth Cons A 3, Rhooose Social C 2; Savoy B 4, Penarth Cons B 1; Liberals 1, Harbour B 4.

League points: West End C 61, Harbour B 57, Cadoxton Cons Z 55, Savoy B 55, Cadoxton

Cons B 46, Penarth Cons A 44, Wyndham Cons A 38, Rhooose Social C 29, Penarth Cons B 25, Rhooose Social B 20, *Liberators 15.

Snooker Division 2: Services Social B 4, Sully Sports A 1; Market Street A 2, West End B 3; Harbour A 2, West End A 3; Wyndham Cons D 3, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Market Street C 4, Market Street B 1.

League points: Market Street C 58, Market Street A 51, Services Social B 51, Savoy C 49, West End A 43, Market Street B 42, Wyndham Cons D 41, Harbour A 38, West End B 32, Cadoxton Cons A 31, Sully Sports A 29.

* = Points deducted. View all results and league tables at www.barryleagues.co.uk.

JW

Vale of Glamorgan Football League roundup

A FEW games fell foul of the weather this past Saturday, but one league game survived and several cup games.

Cwm Talwg are a team transformed and picked up a very impressive victory over Penarth Town B. Goals from Ethan Galsworthy, Sam Montgomery and Paul Eveleigh handed Talwg a 3-1 win and move them up to eighth.

In the ASRS Cup first round, holders AFC Rhooose advanced to the quarter finals after a hard earned win over Cowbridge Town. The game was locked at 2-2 at full time but Rhooose

secured the win with three extra time goals to come out 5-2 victors.

St Athan are also into the hat for the quarter final as they edged Tynewydd 1-0 at the butts in an extremely tight contest. In the Supporters Cup favourites AFC Rhooose B eased into the last eight with a 7-1 thumping of Island Marine B.

BV came through 4-2 in a stern test against Holton Road B while Rhooose Social saw off Barry Athletic B in a seven goal thriller 4-3.

And finally, SP Billy continued their great start to 2020 with a 2-1 victory over Vale Madrid to go into the quarter finals.

Remarkable scoring in poor conditions at St Mary's GC

ST Mary's Golf Club senior section defied the grim weather forecast as 24 of their number teed off in an individual Stableford competition.

By popular choice, however, it was again decided to play the round over a shortened course of just 12 holes.

For once, the forecast was accurate and the players soldiered on through heavy showers of both rain and hail, interspersed with just

an occasional, but welcome spell of sunshine.

With the soggy fairways allowing for almost no run on the ball, scoring conditions were far from ideal but, nevertheless, some excellent scores were returned.

Former captain, Hugh Williams, secured the victory with a remarkable 31 points, seven better than the nominal par of 24 for 12 holes. Gareth Thomas was runner-up just one point back on 30.

NL



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Stuttering Italians give Wales a comfortable start to the Six Nations Championship

FOR the new Welsh coach, Wayne Pivac, a game at home to Italy was always going to be a gentle introduction to the Six Nations, and a 42-0 win confirmed this.

You can never quarrel with a shut out, and it was achieved against an Italian side with threatening backs who, on the day, promised a lot more than they achieved.

Italy also put pressure on the Welsh scrum, a useful reality check for what lies ahead.

However, the 42-0 scoreline flattered Wales, and it's worth remembering that with five minutes to go, Wales were still chasing that bonus point fourth try.

Compared to the fierce commitment that marked the Ireland Scotland game an hour later, it was all a bit bloodless, with Wales having the game in their pocket after just 20 minutes.

Still, as the old saying goes, you can only beat what's in front of you, and Wales were cool, enterprising, and efficient, right from the word go. The first Welsh possession went through 13 phases, with scrum half Tomos Williams making the first of several breaks, and it ended with a penalty on the Italian 22, which Dan Biggar kicked.

Italy responded with their own 12-phase attack, which concluded with a clever inside pass that put left wing Mattia Bellini through, and it needed a fine tackle from Biggar to stop the attack.

Wales turned the ball over and cleared, and two minutes later they nearly scored a try. Johnny McNichol, making his debut on the right wing, kicked ahead, Leigh Halfpenny contested the ball and it broke to Tomos Williams who went over.

However, referee Luke Pierce asked the TMO to check, and it turned out that Halfpenny had nudged it forward.

Wales had to settle for another Biggar penalty a minute later. Soon after, a stray boot caught McNichol in the face, forcing him to leave the field for a HIA, and Nick Tompkins came on to make his debut, slotting in at centre with George North moving to the right wing.

Italy were penalised in the Welsh half and Biggar sent a great kick deep into the 22. From the line out, Wales moved the ball left, and then right, and a try looked likely, but North was unable to hold onto a very fast pass from Williams.

Italy broke out, kicked ahead and Halfpenny returned the ball with a high kick. Tomos Williams regained the ball, kicked for the line but was over-hauled by the Italian defenders who touched down.

However, referee Pearce had spotted a trip on Halfpenny, and Biggar made it three penalties out of three, this time from 45 metres, and it was 9-0.

Italy continued to look threatening, but their attackers were too often isolated from their support, and Wales were picking up penalties for holding on.

From one such penalty, Biggar kicked to the Italian 22 metre line. They say you can't score from first phase possession these days, but Wales did just that. They moved the ball left along the line, with no elaborate tricks, and Tompkins sent a perfect pass to Leigh Halfpenny, who fed Josh Adams, and he had too much power for the covering tacklers. Biggar's conversion missed by about a foot.

It was 20 minutes gone, 14-0, and supposedly too early to declare the game safe, but Italy looked beaten.

Their full back, Matteo Minozzi, seemed to sum up their problems. He's a real box of tricks, throwing side steps galore, but this was one of those days when, whenever he should have zigged, he zagged. There's something slightly dispiriting about watching an 11-stone back sidestep into a 17-stone forward.

Five minutes later, Adams scored his second try. A Welsh attack was halted near the Italian line, and Biggar called for a pass from Williams, and then improvised a quick between-the-legs pass to Adams, who nipped over. This time Biggar converted and it was 21-0.

Five minutes later, Tomos Williams had another chance to score, after he charged down a clearance kick. He was all alone with the line unprotected, but the ball bounced above his head and slipped from his grasp.

Just before half time, Italy had a good chance to get on the scoresheet, but Wales held a determined drive from a five-metre line out.

On the restart, Wales continued to have possession and chances, but they started to go astray. North had a chance to put Adams away, but threw a poor pass.

Italy put an attack together and won a penalty under the posts when the Welsh scrum collapsed. The Italian captain and hooker, Luca Bigi, opted for the scrum and called his pack together, giving detailed instructions for some move.

However, it came to nothing and Wales were able to clear, and that failure to put points on the board would cost Italy later – and give Josh Adams his hat-trick.

On 54 minutes, the substitutions started. Ross Moriarty came on at No 8 for Faletau, who had looked pretty sharp, and Tompkins came on again, this time replacing Hadleigh Parkes, who as always was a cool head in the Welsh backline.

Prop Rob Evans and lock Cory Hill came on too, replacing Wyn Jones and Jake Ball respectively, and it was Hill who made the next significant contribution,

charging 30 metres before being tackled. Dan Biggar was in support and he fed Tompkins, who burst through a gap and then side-stepped the last defender to go over for his debut try close to the posts. Biggar converted and it was 28-0.

Rhys Webb replaced Tomos Williams at scrum half and Wales almost had another try two minutes later. From what looked like an Italian mistake, knocking the ball backwards, Halfpenny fed Webb, who made the break, and then Tompkins gave another textbook demonstration of centre play, drawing his man and putting North in.

However, the TMO detected a Welsh hand touching it forward and the score was ruled out. Tompkins' excellent contribution will give Pivac something to ponder, though, making it far more likely that North will be moved back to contest the right wing spot with McNichol.

It was about this time that the need for that bonus point try started to get more pressing, and Wales eventually managed it with five minutes to go. Wales won a line out on the Italian 22, and a series of forward charges took them close to the line.

At this point, to be honest, Rhys Webb and George North messed it up, with the scrum half's pass going behind North, so that he was static and facing the wrong direction, even though he was only three yards out. However, Alun Wyn Jones was losing patience and grabbed North and drove him to the line, giving him the chance to touch down.

By now, Jarrod Evans had replaced Biggar, so it was Halfpenny who kicked the conversion for 35-0, and that really should have been it.

Justin Tipuric was announced as the man of the match – well deserved – and Italy had possession close to their own line, with the clock in the red zone.

However, that failure to put points on the board meant that they launched a monumentally risky counter attack and, when they lost possession, Josh Adams, as any great winger is, was still hungry and he burst onto a short pass and was over. A third try for him, a second conversion for Halfpenny, and a final scoreline of 42-0.

Wayne Pivac will surely be a contented man, but his team will have taken note of the intensity that Ireland and Scotland brought to the game. From the Welsh point of view, the concussion protocols will presumably mean that Ireland's highly rated No 8, Caelan Doris, will be unavailable for next Saturday in Dublin.

It's stating the obvious, but we will all have a better idea of where Wales are next week when the final whistle blows at the Aviva Stadium.

Philip Irwin

Tudor reigns supreme On and Off the Turf with Brian Lee

LITTLE more than a month after winning the Coral Welsh Grand National on Potters Corner, Ogmores-By-Sea's Christian Williams and his stable jockey Jack Tudor teamed up again to win the £100,000 Betway Heroes Handicap Hurdle on 10-1 chance Limited Reserve at Sandown Park on February 1.

Jack, a 5lb-claiming jockey, rode a brilliant race on the eight-year-old and when challenged for the inside rail in the closing stages, stood his ground and went on to score by three-and-three-quarter lengths from the Fergal O'Brien trained *Ask Dillan*. Although *Limited Reserve* is known as a mud lover, Jack seemed to think that his mount found the heavy going rather testing, but said: "He jumped really well." Jack and his good friend Connor Brace of Bridgend are certainly making a name for themselves in the world of steeplechasing and a credit, not only to their LLangeinor Hunt Pony

Club where it all started, but to Wales. Incidentally, the race last year also went to west Wales as Peter Bowen's *Lord Napier*, ridden by his son Sean and trained in Pembrokeshire, was successful.

At Chepstow January 31, Evan Williams and stable jockey Adam Wedge came away with a double when *Caswell Bay* landed the handicap hurdle and *HoldBackTheRiver* the handicap chase. The former, a 7-1 chance, won by 11 lengths from the favourite *Cameleon* and the latter, which went off at odds of 12-1, got home by a neck from *Top And Drop*. At Catterick, Connor Brace was successful on 8-1 shot *Haasab* for Laura Morgan.

There was an exciting finish to the main event of the day, the SouthWest Racing Club Handicap Chase at Taunton last Sunday (February 2) when the only two Welsh-trained horses, Tim Vaughan's *Cap St Vincent*, a 14-1 chance partnered by Alan Johns, and the Peter Bowen-trained *Lord Bryan*, a 33-1 shot ridden by James Bowen, took the first two places with victory going to the former by just a head.

Tondu under-15s are irresistible in Cup clash



LEFT: Tom Gardener makes a break

THIS under-15 Osprey Cup quarter final between Tondu and Cwmavon was a one sided affair with Tondu displaying some very slick handling in atrocious conditions, running out as 43-0 winners.

The Tondu back row of Connor Jones, Johnny Evans and Tom Gardner were instrumental as the

link between forwards and backs and at times were off loading the ball like a Fijian sevens team.

The try scorers were Alex George, Connor Jones, Johnny Evans, Tom Gardner, Kai Clark, Captain Ellis Major and a try and four conversions from impressive outside half Iestyn Williamson. **MS**

Bridgend Bridge Club

THE latest results for Bridgend Bridge Club are:

On January 29: First, Glyn Williams and Irene Wickham; second, David Crompton and David Bowen; third, Dave Lea and Graham Norris. The winners on handicap were David Crompton and David Bowen.

On January 30: First, Stewart Norton and Ivor Hicks; second Dave Reed and Jim Hume; third, Mike Williams and Gareth Jenkins. The winners on handicap were Stewart Norton and Ivor Hicks.

On January 31: First, Norma and David Newman; second Dave and Debbie Lea; third, Tony Haworth and Kevin Maddox. The winners on handicap were Norma and David Newman.

Regular club nights take place at 7pm on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. On Thursday afternoons at 1.45pm, there is a gentle bridge session when help is available with the bidding. All sessions are played in a friendly manner, visitors and new members are always welcome.

GJ